Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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NATIONAL BOSS BIG SAM'S AS TOUGH AS OLD BLACK COUNTRY ROOTS

New England national team boss Sam Allardyce

NEW England boss Sam Allardyce has described how his Black Country roots have helped prepare him for the toughest job in football.

The Dudley-born 61-year-old was officially unveiled on Monday after agreeing a two-year deal, which includes the option of an additional two years.

Allardyce was born in a council house in Ash Green – part of the Old Park Farm estate. The son of a policeman, he was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Wren's Nest School. And he believes his upbringing has played a major role in shaping his managerial career.

"Ash Green – that is where it all started for me," Allardyce said. "My old mate is still living in his dad's house on that estate. He is one of my schoolboy friends.

"But Ash Green was a great place to develop as a footballer. It was a council estate with a 'green' in the middle.

"It was brown, bare and muddy. But I have some great memories from there. I learned an awful lot both for my playing career and managerial career."

And Allardyce believes he is tough enough to deal with the challenges of the England manager's job, declaring: "Bring it on."

He added: "I'm hardened over many, many years. You toughen yourself for whatever job you take. You take the good with the bad, otherwise you don't do it – don't bother. I am here because I want to be here, because I want the challenge, I'm here because I think I can make the team better and I think I'm tough enough to take it."

Big Sam's appointment has been called 'fantastic' by friends and former neighbours who believe he will help 'bring football back to how it should be.'

"He will bring football back to the Black Country," said Wolves fan Brian Large, 69, from Coseley. "And he will bring football back to how it should be."

Fred Birch, 71, from Dudley, said: "I think the appointment is fantastic.

"England could be no worse than they have been recently."

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TALKING PAPER FUTURE DOUBTS

A CELEBRATED talking newspaper is facing an uncertain future due to Dudley Council cuts.

The Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine may have recently marked its 40th birthday milestone – but bosses are not even sure if it can remain in its current building.

Since its launch in 1976 it has provided a weekly round-up of the latest local news, sport and information to thousands of people living with sight loss in the area.

Based at Beacon Centre in Stourbridge, a team of volunteers also produce a magazine, and Arabic Talking Newspaper and an Asian Talking News.

It was first launched in a small caravan in the grounds of Wordsley Hospital but moved to its current location inside the Mary Stevens Centre in 1996.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive of the Beacon Centre, said: "There is a massive uncertainty surrounding our future in the face of the cuts beyond October – we are not even sure if we could stay in the building.

Isolated

"We will do what we can with our existing resources, but we are appealing for people to get in touch with us to offer support as we would love to take it to the next level.

"The paper makes those who listen feel part of the society and less isolated. It brings local news to the community in a way that they would not get it by any other means."

At a celebration ceremony held at the centre last Friday, volunteers spoke of their memories of the talking newspaper – which goes out to up to 200 people living with sight loss a week.

Margeret Gilroy, aged 72, from Brierley Hill, is one of the newspaper's longest serving volunteers. She first started reading the horoscopes in the early 1990s.

She said: "These days I do a bit of everything – from burning the CDs to editing. Even my grandson James pops along and helps out.

"I used to work in the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh so it seemed an interesting thing to get involved in – little did I know I would be here all these years later.

"It has been a social meeting place for me too and its lovely to know that you're helping someone out there at the same time – whether this is from informing them of a theatre show or something going on in their community."

Bryan Gall, aged 76, from Hagley, has presented a sports section on the newspaper for around 25 years. He said: "We have around 10 volunteers that come along on a Wednesday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

"The technology has changed quite a lot over the years. Firstly we would use cassettes but moved to CDs 10 years ago. The script is about 10 minutes long and I speak about sport on a national and local level."

Celebrities such as Sir Alex Ferguson, Sir Lenny Henry, Ken Dodd and Sir Norman Wisdom have also been interviewed by the paper over the years. The paper and magazine are both digitally available through the Beacon Centre's website.

By Clare Butler

Centre's SOS after funds blow

Springboard co-ordinator Alison Pugh with project assistants Sandy Jones and Fran Cartwright

AN activity centre for the elderly in Dudley could be forced to close by early next year after the council axed £300,000 of its funding.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre based at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, has had £300,000 of its funding cut by Dudley Council in recent weeks.

Bosses say they face 'unprecedented times' and could close by January unless support is forthcoming. Acting co-ordinator Alison Pugh said: "We are in dire straits. We are out fundraising and doing as much as we can to raise awareness about our situation.

"We are still providing our services but the future is uncertain for us past December as these are unprecedented times."

Some of the cuts will take effect from September 30. The centre also has received funding from Big Lottery for the past six years but had its latest application refused.

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run various health and wellbeing activities for those aged 50 to 100. Christine Szygowski, chief executive officer, said: "This is disastrous."

To donate, call 01384571830.

BOOST

Extra parking for visitors to town

VISITORS and traders to Dudley town centre will benefit from additional car parking spaces that have been created in the town.

Around 12 new spaces, including one disabled bay, will be created on an unused and redundant car park in New Mill Street.

The move is part of plans to attract more shoppers into the town centre and boost trade.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is further great news for the town, its visitors and traders.

"Through providing this additional car parking, we hope to encourage more people into the town centre, which will continue to support the economic growth of the borough and support businesses."

PLANS

Store resurrects car park scheme

A SUPERMARKET giant has resurrected plans to knock down a social club to extend its car park.

A previous application by Lidl to demolish Halesowen Members Club in order to create more parking spaces at its Hagley Road shop was rejected by Dudley Council planners in February due to concerns over safety and design.

The firm has resubmitted its proposals, saying concerns have now been addressed. It would potentially add 57 spaces to its car park.

STATUS

Grade II listing for historic memorial

AN historic First World War memorial will stand proud in Halesowen town centre for years to come after gaining Grade II listing.

The memorial, built in 1921 by Collins and Godfrey of Tewkesbury after being designed by Sir Harold Brakspear, has been deemed of national importance by Historic England and the Royal British Legion.

Local government leaders say the move will allow the soldiers' names to live on.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "This is another fantastic step in recognising the importance of our local heritage and adding further protection for future generations."

INSIDE:
STAR CARS AT CLASSIC SHOW

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Museum collection will be moved

Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, Priory Street

DUDLEY Museum's move to a new base has moved a step closer, after the plan gained the backing of a council's scrutiny board.

Last month Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council unveiled plans to close Dudley Museum and shift the collection to Dudley Archives, in Tipton Road.

The proposals have been opposed by campaigners but on last week the council's overview and scrutiny management board voted unanimously in favour of them.

The plans, which had already been backed by the authority's cabinet members, will now go before full council for final approval.

Councillor Alan Finch, who sits on the scrutiny committee, said: "I think it's about time we stopped dithering – we've got to go forward and actually make decisions.

"We had friendly discussions between ourselves and agreed for it to go forward. We don't want another Hippodrome on our hands."

Assuming full council backing, the museum's treasures – including geological and fine art collections – will be housed in the archive centre.

Council chiefs are in talks with the owners of the museum's collections for permission to move them early next year. It is hoped the new museum will open in summer 2017.

The old building in St James's Road will close at the end of this year while the council considers the future of the site."

£700k community hub is finally on the way

A LONG-AWAITED community centre is set to be built on Donkey Pool Playing Fields in Dudley after the council gave plans the go-ahead for the £700,000 project.

Castle and Priory ward Councillor Ken Finch said he believes the centre will be built this year.

Residents have been waiting nearly a decade for a new centre after their old one was knocked down eight years ago when Dudley Council also flattened more than 200 homes.

"It is success story for the Priory Residents Tenants Association after what they went through in the past seven to eight years," said Councillor Finch.

"I am delighted, alongside my colleagues, to be part of the development.

"We have all the money that has come through the local authority. It has been rubber-stamped by the council and all we are waiting for now is to get the contractors in."

Cafe

The purpose-built community centre would feature four changing rooms with showers and toilets and the use of a multi-games area with upgraded access for the public. It will also have a hall, kitchen and community cafe.

Councillor Finch said: "We have been promised chairs and table from different organisations. A lot of businesses are beginning to show interest.

"The council have now got the backing from Sports England to improve the football pitches that need draining. Sports England seem to be very impressed and once they are assured the building will start they will get involved.

"We are now looking for sponsors and fundraisers. We have had a number of organisations that said they will support us financially."

He was '99 per cent' sure that the community centre would be built this year but could not be certain when the exact date would be as the plans still need to discussed with contractors.

The centre will be run by the Priory Residents Tenants Association.

Lenny's pride at university role

New Chancellor of Birmingham City University Sir Lenny Henry says he will talk with students

DUDLEY-BORN comedian Sir Lenny Henry has been appointed chancellor of Birmingham City University.

Sir Lenny said he felt proud to be part of something that could 'potentially change the face of Birmingham education of the future'.

The actor, writer, comedian and charity campaigner visited the university's campus to start preparing for his five-year term.

The relationship with the star follows a tour of the campus earlier in the year when Sir Lenny saw the university's work in the creative arts with young people from a range of diverse backgrounds.

He was also shown the university's industry-standard media facilities, including four TV studios, radio recording studios and Europe's largest static green screen.

He said: "Being a chancellor means it's ceremonial but also gives me the chance to speak to students and talk about what they want and their future plans.

"This was not on the cards for me so I feel really proud to be part of something that could potentially change the face of Birmingham education.

"There has been these new works going on in the uni and it seems that there is this 'Midlands hub' being created for this futuristic idea of competing with London. I knew that I had to be part of it."

Sir Lenny received a knighthood for his work with drama and charity.

Upgrade at stations to allow for more users

TRANSPORT bosses have named Dudley Port Railway Station among a number they are looking at improving during the next 10 years. Network Rail says passenger numbers should continue to rise.

It is one of four stations in the Black Country on a shortlist for improvements to help them deal with the expected surge in use. The others are Wolverhampton, Smethwick Galton Bridge and Walsall. They are among 19 in the West Midlands down for improvements.

Wolverhampton is on a development time line 'by 2024' under a recently released West Midlands & Chilterns Route Study by Network Rail.

The station is already subject to planned work next year to replace it with an interchange, combining rail and Midland Metro services. The remainder are on a 'longer term' development plan.

The study predicted usage of Wolverhampton Railway Station would increase from 4.75 million people in 2013-14 to up to 7.1 million in 2023.

It said platforms one and two were the busiest parts of the station, adding the entrance and concourse area were 'quite narrow and restricted'. The report also said the planned automatic ticket gates as part of an upcoming station could restrict flows of people.

The report said Galton Bridge passengers found it difficult to find their way around the multi-level platforms.

At Dudley Port the authors found the staircase was too narrow to accommodate peak time flows of passengers.

Twenty homes to replace garages

GARAGES will be knocked down and 20 new homes will be built in their place in Dudley after council planners gave the scheme the go-ahead.

The houses will be erected on land to the rear of Ketley Hill Road.

Permission was granted at a development committee meeting last week.

There will be eight two-bedroom dormer bungalows, four two-bedroom houses, six three-beds and two four-beds, according to the planning application.

Council planning officers had recommended the plan for approval, which was given by councillors.

In a report to the meeting, officers said the development was 'acceptable in principle'.

Foxtrot down to weekly tea dance

DANCERS can practise their fancy footwork at weekly tea dances in Halesowen.

They are held every Thursday from 2-4pm at Cornbow Hall. Admission is £3 which includes tea and coffee. Call 01384 81 2814 for details.

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Got 2 Sing choir hits right notes for hospice

THE Got 2 Sing Choir raised the roof at Dudley Town Hall as well as cash for Mary Stevens Hospice with its Summer Spectacular Performance.

The community choir has been supporting Mary Stevens Hospice over the past 18 months.

The event raised £920.50, which added to the money raised by Got 2 Sing over the past year and a half, means that in total they have collected over £11,000.

Choir members receive singing lessons and develop contemporary vocal techniques, and perform in venues across the county.

There is also a thriving Got 2 Sing Youth Choir in Stourbridge for budding young performers aged nine to 16. Got 2 Sing was set up five years ago by Jane Dunn and her daughter Beth, and now has 10 associated choirs. They regularly hold fundraising concerts, and in total have so far raised in the region of £84,000 for local charities.

Delighted with the success of July's concert, Jane said: "It was fantastic. There were 220 members on stage, so many that they had to use two stage extensions."

It followed a concert raising money for the hospice held at Birmingham Symphony Hall last year.

Hospice head of fundraising and lottery Charlotte Schofield, said: "Mary Stevens Hospice is extremely lucky to work in partnership with Got 2 Sing choirs.

"We are extremely grateful to Got 2 Sing for everything they do."

Boy's leg impaled on coffee table

A BOY impaled his leg on a wooden coffee table during a freak accident at home in Dudley.

The 12-year-old boy tripped and fell against the table which splintered on one side last Friday morning.

A piece of wood, between two and three inches long, embedded into his right thigh. But the boy remained stuck to the table as a crew from Dudley Fire Station arrived.

Firefighters spent around 30 minutes cutting through the table with a power saw and then a hand saw to release the boy from the table.

He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital for the piece of wood to be removed from his leg and a check up.

Watch Commander Keith Hampton said: "It was an unusual one."

Summer exhibition held at glass cone

AN interactive summer exhibition is being staged at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley until September 25.

The family exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm and at weekends from 11am to 4pm.

Overturned lorry forces road closure

The lorry: Haden Cross fire station

A LORRY crashed and rolled onto its side on a busy island forcing a road to be shut and sparking traffic chaos.

The smashed happened on a busy stretch of the A456 between Stourbridge and Halesowen at around 11.55am on Sunday.

It overturned on the Foxhunt island near the Harvester pub.

Initially emergency services had to shut the road at the island between Hagley Road and Manor Way.

Halesowen councillor Karen Shakespeare was driving behind the lorry as it overturned and called emergency services. She said: "It all happened in slow motion. I just stopped my car and dialled 999. There was some smoke coming from the front.

"The operator asked if they had been some petrol coming from the lorry and I looked and it smelled like there was. By that time a lot of people had stopped and had gathered around."

Bus operator National Express West Midlands alerted passengers through Twitter that a service going along the route had to be diverted amid the chaos. Service 244 was sent on an alternative route to Lutley Green estate via Brassnage Road and Lansdowne Road in the aftermath.

A man had scrambled out of the wreckage by the time two crews from Haden Cross fire station and paramedics arrived.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said the man had been checked over by paramedics.

Firefighters worked on the clean up with sand scattered to absorb diesel leaking from the large lorry. Mounds of sand were behind the lorry with its trailer section open on its side.

Just no limit to what Bionic Bob can achieve

HE lost his legs and arms after a bout of meningitis when he was aged just 18.

But Robert Parsons, nickname Bionic Bob, has proved there is no limit to what he can do.

The 34-year-old completed a 10km sponsored walk, raising more than £1,500 for charity.

And as part of his training, Mr Parsons, from Stourbridge, made a Rocky-style training video shared by thousands of people online.

This shows him wearing his prosthetic blades to run around, pushing a car and lifting dumb bells.

Mr Parsons completed Bionic Bob's 10k Walk, alongside the former Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley – Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne.

Mr Parsons, a former van driver's mate at the Geoff Hill Electrical Superstore in Amblecote, said he wanted to thank people for their support after his diagnosis.

Fundraising by his former boss Mr Hill saw more than £150,000 donated to help him buy prostheses and a specially-adapted car.

The 10k walk event started and finished at Geoff Hill Electrical Superstore and went through Mary Stevens Park.

Donations

Mr Parsons said: "The reaction from people has been amazing – everyone supported what I was doing, I just wanted to give something back to all of the people who had helped and supported me.

"You feel like you've had all that help and want to help people in return."

He has raised more than £1,500 so far from the walk for Mary Stevens Hospice and Meningitis Now and said more donations would be welcomed.

Mr Parsons was a delivery driver for Mr Hill's electrical firm when he was struck down by the potentially deadly illness in 2000, causing him to have operations to remove his arms from just below the elbow and his legs at the knees.

He also lost part of his nose. Thousands of pounds were raised in just weeks from public donations – and that has been used in recent years to kit out Mr Parsons's home and buy him a specially-adapted car.

In the 16 years since he has battled to improve his mobility and reached a milestone in January 2011 by managing to walk around for long periods of time.

Staff from Mary Stevens Hospice hailed 'inspirational' Mr Parsons' fundraising efforts.

To donate to Mr Parsons' fund visit http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RobParsons

Robert Parsons with Lee Smart from Geoff Hill Electrical and Bob Billingham, right

Bionic Bob during the making of the Rocky video

Pushing a car as part of the filming

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire crews called to chemical leak

FIREFIGHTERS dealt with a chemical leak incident in Netherton.

Three fire appliances and a hazardous substance unit were at the scene on Pear Tree Lane over the weekend in an attempt to identify the substance,

There was no reported injuries.

West Midlands Fire Service say the leak was confined to a commercial area and no evacuations were made.

West Midlands Fire Service say they received the call at 11.16 on Sunday morning and arrived within three minutes.

Fewer in borough are out of work

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits fell in the Dudley borough last month.

There were 40 fewer claimants in June than in May, with the total falling to 5,445 – 2.8 per cent of the working population.

Sandwell was down 45 to 7,020 (3.5 per cent) but Wyre Forest had a rise of 10 to 700 (1.2 per cent).

New Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green said: "When it comes to our jobs market we're in a position of strength."

Taking holiday fun to the edge

PLANT-POTTING and kite-flying are among the activities on offer this summer at Kinver Edge.

All the activities being offered at the National Trust site are based at the Rock Houses and themed about nature.

They are designed for children aged between five and ten but all ages are welcome. The sessions will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm with activities running until September 1.

Shows added to new season at civic hall

SOME new concerts and shows have been added to the programme at Brierley Hill Civic Hall this autumn and winter.

Tickets for the Buddy Holly and the Cricketers concert, at 7pm on October 19 are £15.

On November 24 there will be an evening of 90s music with Mad 4 Brit – tickets £10 – and on December 1 the venue offers The Rat Pack at Christmas with tickets at £20.

Call 01384 573381 to buy.

Ukulele band concert

THE Black Country Ukulele Band perform at Himley Park on August 7.

Their set, from 2.30 to 5pm, will feature an array of songs from skiffle and country to rock 'n' roll, each one performed in their own unique style.

Admission is free Visitors can bring a picnic and relax on the lawns.

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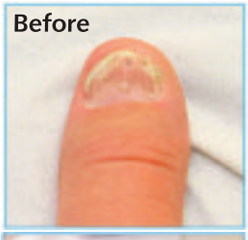

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A FAILURE for all seasons. Until this week, my broadband service tended to crash out in heavy rain, wind or thunder. This week we discovered it doesn't like a heatwave either. Wrong sort of sun.

BARELY a year after the inquest into the deaths of three recruits during training on Brecon Beacons, another young soldier has collapsed and died. It was on the hottest day of the year so far. This extraordinary day had been forecast for some time and yet, even after the "gross failures" condemned in last year's inquest, the gruelling selection went ahead. The dead man, Corporal Joshua Hoole was not a rookie but an experienced soldier whose health, presumably, had been monitored for years. He should not have died. Once again, a family grieves and the nation demands an explanation. It better be good.

WHAT sort of government can produce a list of 50,000 "enemies" and arrange for them to be imprisoned, detained or sacked in less than three days? Don't you get the impression that Turkey's post-coup crackdown was planned at least as well as the plot itself?

BRITAIN'S best-known atheist Richard Dawkins and his wife, the former Doctor Who star Lalla Ward, have announced they have "separated entirely amicably." They insist they are still good friends, will continue working together and are sharing their house. So what's the difference between that and being married?

THE F-word raises its furry head. Andrea Leadsom said during her campaign for the Tory leadership: "I would absolutely commit to holding a vote to repeal the (fox) hunting ban. It has not proven to be in the interests of animal welfare whatsoever." Now Secretary of State for the Environment, will she be tempted to lift the hunting ban to placate the landowning classes? Not if she has half a brain. There is no sensible reason why the pursuit of a small creature should arouse such ferocious political passions. It just does. Banning the hunt won Tony Blair thousands of votes in his 1997 landslide. Lifting the ban would cost Theresa May's government thousands more while satisfying only a few people who were Tory voters anyway.

A FRIEND is just back from a windsurfing holiday in Greece. On a daily basis he pitted his taut-muscled physique and the latest hi-tech windsurfer technology against the fiercest squalls of the wild Aegean. Skipping the wave-crests, he hit speeds he had never dreamed of. He says the sensation was spoiled somewhat when he was overtaken by a bumble bee.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Man had loaded guns and drugs

ARMED police discovered two loaded guns at the home of a man previously jailed for possession of a loaded pump action shotgun, a judge heard.

One revolver, with three live rounds in the chamber, was hidden under a floorboard in the bathroom at the house in Victoria Road, Tipton, when the officers swooped at 3.30am on May 19, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The other pistol, loaded with four bullets, was concealed in a drawer in the divan bed where Imran Ahmed slept. A further 11 rounds of ammunition and a wrap of heroin were also discovered.

He had only been free for seven months following his release on licence from a five-year sentence for a firearms offence in which he was found in a vehicle with the shotgun, said Mr Lal Amarasinghe, prosecuting. The 36-year-old defendant – who was jailed for a further eight years – insisted he was 'holding' the weapons for gang members in an effort to pay off a drug debt and had been given the two handguns 10 days earlier by a man he met in a car park near his home but declined to name.

Ahmed added: "I owed this big gang £800 which is why I held the shotgun for them. After I was freed from prison the people caught up with me and said I now owed a further £1,300 because I had lost the shotgun. They were threatening me and my family."

The DNA of Ahmed was found on the bullets in the weapons, said Judge John Wait. Ahmed admitted possession of firearms, ammunition and heroin and was jailed for a total of eight years.

Senior councillors back move to demolish flats

By David Cosgrove

PLANS to knock down four high-rise flats in Netherton have moved a step closer as they gained the backing of Dudley Council's cabinet members.

Senior councillors backed plans to demolish Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court at a meeting last Wednesday.

The authority has carried out a review of its housing stock, which revealed a huge spend was needed to keep the high-rises in good condition.

Bosses decided the four blocks, which were built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable as they needed a minimum of £9.1 million spent on them in the short term.

Speaking at the meeting, Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said the decision was an 'operational imperative' and the council's hand had been forced by its financial situation.

Regrettable

She said: "These are homes where there are real communities of long standing and with people much committed to their locality. It's regrettable that this means people will have to leave their homes.

"This is a life-changing decision and cabinet needs to acknowledge that. As a council we will do more than what is reasonably expected of us with dealing with the consequences of this decision."

Ward councillor Elaine Taylor previously estimated up to 300 residents could be affected.

The scheme will now go in front of the place scrutiny committee in September before it could be rubber-stamped at a full council meeting in October.

Consultation with residents who live in the four blocks is ongoing.

Chiefs said a decision about the future use of the sites has not yet been taken but it is likely to see 'new, lower-density builds'.

If demolition is given the green light, each tenant will then receive face-to-face meetings with officers.

7,000 jobs boost on the Waterfront

The Waterfront development, where 7,000 jobs will be created by the establishment of an office hub

AROUND 7,000 new jobs will be created when Chancellor Philip Hammond signs off on a new development to make the Waterfront the 'high tech office hub' of the Black Country.

The final plans for a new enterprise zone at Merry Hill, Dudley, have been submitted to the Government and are expected to be rubber-stamped in the autumn statement.

The Waterfront development, which is expected to inject around £600 million into the regional economy each year, will see a complete revamp of the existing site.

As well as reoccupying 18,000sq m of vacant office space, the zone, when fully built, will include up to 110,000sq m of new office space, 36,000sq m of new technology space and 65,000sq m of new industrial space. The total development is expected to deliver up to 7,000 new jobs and provide a £589m boost to the economy each year.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "It's fantastic news that the new enterprise zone, which will bring thousands of new jobs to Dudley, is moving a step closer. The new investment will transform the area."

Businesses locating to enterprise zones get up to 100 per cent business rate discount worth up to £330,000 per business over a six-year period.

They also benefit from simplified local authority planning processes and get government support to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "This is extremely exciting news for Brierley Hill and the wider area. The enterprise zone will reinvigorate the existing Waterfront office complex."

Owner shuts care home described as inadequate

A CARE home deemed 'inadequate' by a health watchdog, which found 'people were being deprived of their liberty', has closed down.

Following inspections on June 8 and 9, Shirley O'Donnell decided to close The Red House in Kingswinford which she had run for over 30 years, previously with her late husband David.

The report published on July 13 stated: "We saw that some people were being deprived of their liberty."

The report also said that one person had furniture placed in front of them to prevent them being able to get out of their chair. Mrs O'Donnell said it concerned a 92-year-old woman, saying: "Her daughter told us that she would throw herself on to the floor. I wanted to protect her."

The inspectors also said: "We saw that people did not have their walking aids within easy reach to support their free movement."

Another major issue was the lack of staff overnight with only Mrs O'Donnell present. Care records were out of date and inaccurate.

The home had failed to comply with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and related safeguards, according to the Care Quality Commission. Residents and relatives had described the staff as caring but the four residents have now been moved to other homes.

Mrs O'Donnell, who had worked as a geriatric nurse, says she struggled, especially with paperwork, after her husband died in November. The home closed on June 29.

Dragon boat race raises grand sum

A CHEQUE for £1,312 has been handed to the organisers of an annual dragon boat extravaganza which takes place on the lake at Himley Park, near Dudley.

Thousands watched participants from across the Black Country and beyond take on the challenge on the Great Pool in May. The Paycare Pirates, one of 24 teams to take part, handed the money to the Wolverhampton Rotary Club, who will split it with Compton Hospice.

The money was handed over by Bonnie Webb, business analyst at Paycare, Wolverhampton-based not-for-profit health cash plan organisation to Mike Boyce, Rotary's immediate past president.

The event has raised almost £320,000 over the years.

Activity week held at borough's parks

ACTIVITIES take place at borough parks for play week from August 1-5.

They run from noon to 4pm in Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, Jubilee at Coseley, Mary Steven's Park in Stourbridge, Priory Park, Dudley and The Dell, Brockmoor.

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Improved school is praised by inspectors

A SCHOOL in Kingswinford has been praised by Ofsted inspectors for making improvements.

Crestwood Park Primary, in Lapwood Avenue, was rated as 'good' by the education watchdog following an inspection in June – a step up from its 2014 rating of 'requires improvement'.

Inspectors said the school had improved since their previous visit and was 'good' overall. It was also rated good in all inspection categories – effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils and early years provision.

The school, which has 200 pupils, was previously told it required improvement following an inspection in February 2014.

Headteacher Maggie Stowe said: "It has been down to everybody pulling together, all the hard work of the staff."

In a new report, an inspector said: "The school has improved since the previous inspection and continues to do so. The headteacher leads the school with passion to deliver on its aim to 'be the best you can be to achieve all that you deserve'.

"She is well supported by an effective senior leadership team. Achievement is good and pupils make good progress in reading, writing and mathematics."

Pupils' behaviour and progress also came in for praise in the report.

Charity milestone reached at gym

A DUDLEY gym has reached a fundraising milestone, collecting £20,000 for local charities over the last five years.

Unique Fitness for Ladies Only, in Castle Hill, nominate a different charity each year and hold activities such as sponsored aerobathons, raffles and fun days. This year they have raised more than £3,500 which will buy two syringe drivers for drip machines for the Premature Baby Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Some money will also be donated to an animal charity.

For the first time this year some of the gym members took up the challenge to reach 2,000 calories in under two hours using the hardest equipment in the gym.

Views sought on community issues

DUDLEY Community Safety Partnership wants views on crime, substance abuse and anti-social issues.

A consultation event takes place in Dudley Council House, Priory Road, on September 28 from 6.30-9pm.

Warden 'left for dead' by angry driver

A TRAFFIC warden was knocked down and 'left for dead' in a Dudley street by a furious motorist he had just booked, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The Mercedes driven by Mohammed Nazabuth, of Crabbe Street, Stourbridge, struck warden Anthony Harris moments after he had put a ticket on it, explained Miss Amy Jackson, prosecuting.

The 30-year-old driver jumped into the 4x4 that was parked illegally in Castle Street, Dudley, and drove off as the warden was taking a picture of the vehicle.

Mr Harris was hit on the leg by the Mercedes and knocked into the bonnet when the vehicle suddenly moved forward. Nazabuth ordered him to get out of the way because he was in a hurry and the warden was then hit in the chest by a wing mirror of the car sped off. The motorist drove off without checking the condition of the injured man during the incident on September 18.

Miss Jackson said the experience had affected the confidence of Mr Harris and left him considering a change of career.

Mr Richard Butcher, defending, claimed Nazabuth had sat in the car for a short time waiting for the warden to complete his business before leaving. He conceded: "He accepts his vehicle came into contact with the man.

"He failed to appreciate the warden had to take a photograph and mercifully the injuries the man suffered were of the lighter kind. He was not trying to avoid the parking ticket."

The defendant, a delivery driver in the family butchery business, had several previous convictions, including one for wounding. He pleaded guilty to causing bodily harm by wanton and furious driving.

He was jailed for 10 months and banned from driving for a year.

Recorder Ben Mills, told him: "This must have been utterly terrifying for the traffic warden. You sped off without a care for his well being, leaving him shaken, dazed and hurt. You just left him for dead. He was just doing his job and people like him, who are working for the public, need to be protected by the courts."

Mystery over abuse as carer sent to jail

A CARER took the secret of why he abused a severely disabled man to jail with him as he started a seven month prison sentence.

The 44-year-old victim – whose severe learning difficulties meant that he was totally dependent on others to look after him – was found drenched in deodorant with bruised ears after being in the sole care of Nicholas Howard.

When the 32-year-old changed shift and handed over responsibility to a colleague she discovered the resident was covered in so much white powder it had etched his profile into the sofa on which he was sitting in a bungalow at Badger Court, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She also saw the ears of the man, who had been in care since childhood, were bruised, added Mr Stephen Thomas, prosecuting. Police were called and an investigation launched.

Father of one Howard denied being to blame and suggested that the injury could have been the result of self-harm. He did accept the victim's deodorant was locked away in the bathroom but claimed he could have taken his own personal deodorant from his bag and sprayed it while he was not looking.

Unlikely

This was rejected by expert witnesses, including an occupational therapist who dismissed the version of events as 'highly unlikely' and the jury found the defendant guilty of ill treatment following a trial. The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report until Monday.

Mr David Munro, defending, said Howard had deliberately sought a job caring for others after being made redundant and had been doing the work for 18 months when the incident occurred on May 28, 2014.

"This awful business was wholly out of character and the consequences for him and his family are grave," he said.

The defendant's daughter suffered from a chronic condition and the family were now in danger of defaulting on their mortgage after he was sacked.

Howard, of Roberts Green Road, Dudley – of previous good character – was sent to prison and banned from working with the young and vulnerable.

Judge Amjad Nawaz, said: "You were the only person caring for him when this occurred and only you know how it came about."

Dc Sarah West said: "We still don't really know why Howard carried out this abuse."

Real ale fans' reason to celebrate

James Stevens, Councillor Pete Lowe, Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif and festival organiser Steve Edwards

A CIDER alternative will also be available at the Dudley Beer Festival in Brierley Hill Civic Hall this weekend.

Part of the wider Black Country Festival, the Bank Street venue will host the festival from noon each day with ales on sale from a dozen Black Country breweries and elsewhere.

Meet the brewer sessions will run each day along with a comedy night tomorrow (Friday), music on Saturday and a Fizzog Productions performance on Sunday.

Meanwhile, hopes are high that the three-day Dudley Winter Ales Fair usually held in November could yet be saved.

Emergency

An emergency meeting to call for volunteers who can help roll out the barrels and keep it alive was being held this week after real ale enthusiasts revealed the event faced folding due to a lack of helpers – despite the popular event attracting hundreds of people and outgrowing its original home in Netherton.

Tony Morgan, branch secretary for Stourbridge and Halesowen Campaign for Real Ale, said he was hopeful of a positive outcome after a meeting was being held at Dudley's Lamp Tavern earlier this week in a bid to save the festival.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pupils work to rid park of litter

TWO schools in Hagley have played a key role in combatting litter problems. Haybridge High and Hagley Catholic High School have been working on two designs to be put on new bins in Hagley Park, near the train station, to encourage people to stop littering.

Both schools also send staff to monitor litter in their local community during the summer months.

Councillor Steven Colella, Hagley West district councillor and chairman of Hagley Parish Council, said: "The school has done some really positive work to try and tackle the problem."

Homes bid lodged for old pub site

TWENTY homes could be built on brownfield land in Cradley Heath after plans were submitted to Sandwell Council.

Bennington Developments has put forward the proposals for 12 one-bed and seven two-bedroom homes on the site in Graingers Lane.

According to a design statement submitted as part of the scheme, the site includes a public house, but this is now vacant and the site is overgrown.

Fencing has been erected to deter trespassers. Council planners will rule on the application in due course.

Glyndebourne is beamed to venue

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED opera Beatrice et Benedict will be broadcast live in the Black Country next month.

Hector Berlioz's musical version of Shakespeare's battle of the sexes comedy Much Ado About Nothing is being performed at the Glyndebourne Festival and broadcast live to Stourbridge Town Hall on August 9.

Tickets cost £16 adults and £12 children, for further information call the box office on (01384) 812812.

One-way in place as roadworks carried out

A BUSY road in Tipton will become one-way for 10 days while roadworks take place.

Work started on Alexandra Road and Horseley Road on Monday and will run until August 4.

The street close to The ACE Academy will be resurfaced, according to Sandwell Council highways bosses. Sandwell Highways tweeted: "Alexandra Road/Horseley Road #Tipton will be one-way July 25 to August 4 for resurfacing."

Blood donor sessions

BLOOD donors are needed in Brierley Hill. Sessions will run on August 25 from 2pm until 3.30pm and from 4.30pm until 7.30pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street. Appointments can be booked by calling NHS Blood and Transplant on 0300 1232323 or visiting my.blood.co.uk

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Our Sam will give region a loud voice

NEVER thought I would see it in my lifetime, but the latest appointment to the highest office in the land has finally seen the glass ceiling shattered.

The new England manager is from Dudley. Let's hope that a generation from now, we will look back at the appointment of Sam Allardyce as a watershed moment in history, the beginning of a revolution which will mean that in years to come anybody of any importance will come from the Black Country.

The appointment of Big Sam means that at last the voice of the Black Country will finally be heard. At least in the changing rooms of Wembley. And very loudly too, if what some of his former players say is anything to go by.

❒ ❒ ❒

NOT that I actually hold much hope for the England team under Allardyce's leadership, you understand.

As ever, we can probably expect a brief honeymoon period, some very solid results in the qualifying stages, and come the World Cup the players will then freeze on the big stage and go out with a whimper.

It's sad to admit it, but we just don't seem to be very good at football these days. Which probably explains why nearly everybody in England gets terribly excited by a Scotsman who is good at ping pong.

Then we have the Tour de France, which has just been one by an Englishman called Chris Froome. Good for him, he seems a decent sort of chap. But is cycling through the countryside really a sport? While competing at that level certainly requires a level of physical endurance that I could never compete with, it still essentially a group of people travelling by a slightly old-fashioned mode of transport. A bit like steam railway buffs or traction engine fans.

❒ ❒ ❒

Now, having failed to get bridge recognised as an Olympic sport, English Heritage is suggesting that the medieval game of jousting should be considered for the 2020 Olympics.

So having failed miserably at the most popular game on earth, we are now turning our attention to riding bikes, playing cards, and encouraging blokes on horseback to jab at each other with blunted spears.

Who says we're a nation of couch potatoes?

❒ ❒ ❒

GOING back to the England football team, have you ever heard anybody, in everyday conversation refer to England as the "Three Lions"?

"Eh Jim, you going down the pub to see the Three Lions' game?"

No, me neither. So why do the tabloids insist on referring to Allardyce as "the new Three Lions boss?"

Donald Neilson, known as the Black Panther

Lesley Whittle, who was kidnapped in 1975

The shaft where Lesley was kept

Grim murder that shook the nation

It's now 40 years since justice finally caught up with sinister killer, The Black Panther, as MARK ANDREWS reports

SERIAL killers do not come more sinister than Donald Neilson. He revelled in his nickname The Black Panther – given because of the way he swiftly pounced on his victims wearing a dark hood.

The army-obsessed former soldier planned his crimes with military precision and became perturbed when he felt the media did not give him the attention he craved.

And very few places were affected by the fear more than the West Midlands and Shropshire which was shaken to the core when Neilson abducted, and then murdered teenage heiress Lesley Whittle, having demanded a £50,000 ransom.

Terror

Her body was found in Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, in 1975. He went on to kill security guard Gerald Smith at the Freightliner Terminal in Dudley, and had committed the murder of Sidney Grayland a year earlier by shooting him in Langley, Oldbury.

It is 40 years since Neilson was handed five life sentences at Oxford Crown Court for his year-long reign of terror which claimed five lives across Britain.

In court judge Mr Justice Mars-Jones told him that the enormity of his crimes put him in a class apart from almost all convicted murderers, and that he should never taste freedom again.

While Neilson was said to have cried in his prison cell after the sentence, former Shropshire Star editor Andy Wright who was in the court that day recalls him looking almost impassive while in the dock.

"He seemed pretty collected. I suppose there is an air of resignation when you have been caught for crimes like this that you are going to be sent to prison for a long time," he says.

£50,000 KIDNAP DEADLINE RUNS OUT

We'll do anything says her brother

By Al Smith, Judy Wright and Terry Bishop

Shocking story and family pleas made the headlines

Neilson had killed three times before Lesley's murder, and once more afterwards. His victims included postmaster's husband Sidney from Langley and a security guard at the Dudley Freightliner rail terminal. But it was the death of 17-year-old Lesley, who was doing her A-levels at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun College, which really shook the nation.

"There was an awful lot of apprehension once it became clear he was also responsible for the murder in the Black Country, and the shooting in Dudley," remembers Mr Wright, who covered Lesley's abduction from start to finish.

"People were pretty unsettled that he was around. They had seen the photofits, and they would be looking their neighbours up and down. It was a very nervous time."

Neilson had snatched Lesley from her bedroom in Highley, near Bridgnorth in January 1975, leaving a ransom note punched on plastic Dymo tape, demanding £50,000 from her wealthy family. His ransom note was so detailed the message was more than 18 inches in length, giving specific instructions to deliver the money in a white van to the Swan shopping centre in Kidderminster.

Police initially wondered whether it might have been a student prank, but it quickly emerged he was very serious. Neilson had tethered Lesley by a noose in a drainage shaft beneath Bathpool Park, and it was there where her body would be found following a botched attempt by police to trap him during a ransom drop.

Neilson was born Donald Nappey in 1936, and was said to have suffered many taunts about his unfortunate surname while growing up in his home town of Bradford. He had served as a lance-corporal in the Army, but had struggled to settle into civilian life after giving up his military career to spend more time with his wife Irene and daughter Kathryn.

Fiercely protective of Kathryn, he changed his name to Neilson so she would not suffer bullying. He was also said to have been extremely possessive towards his wife, stopping her from seeing friends and subjecting her to frequent beatings.

He began as a prolific burglar, responsible for more than 400 unsolved break-ins. His offending stepped up a gear following a break-in at a house in Cheshire where, having discovered guns and ammunition, he decided armed robbery would be more lucrative.

Between 1971 and 1974, Neilson robbed 14 post offices, becoming increasingly more violent. He killed for the first time when he shot postmaster Donald Skepper during a robbery at Harrogate in February 1974. Police were quick to spot the link when he murdered another postmaster, Derek Astin of Baxenden, Lancashire, in September 1974.

Battered

It was just two months before he struck again, this time in Langley. He brutally battered sub-postmistress Margaret Grayland, and shot her husband Sidney dead.

However, when Neilson kidnapped Lesley the following January, police were slow to link the crime with the Panther murders. Neilson's carefully laid plans began to unravel during the botched ransom drop at Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, yards from where Lesley was being held in a deep drainage shaft.

Lesley's brother Ronald was supposed to go to the park during the early hours and wait for Neilson to signal to him by flashing a torch. But, by coincidence, another couple turned up, resulting in confusion. Agitated, Neilson drove to Dudley where he attempted to rob the Freightliner terminal. During the raid, he shot security guard Gerald six times, causing him injuries which would result in his death the following year.

Lesley's body was not found until the following month, and Neilson would evade capture until November that year. Neilson died, aged 75, in 2011.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Never voted for the EU super state

I WRITE in reply to Mr Fletcher of Tenerife/Dudley. He was obviously not around in the late 70s when we voted in the referendum on joining the 'Common Market'.

That's what we were voting for, a European Free Trade Area, not the creaking bureaucratic European super state that it is rapidly becoming.

I didn't vote to be ruled by unelected bureaucrats sitting in Strasbourg or Brussels. I want the government of my country to make the rules, after all, I elected them to do just that.

You obviously do not read the Financial Times, the stock market is higher now than before the vote. The chancellor also hinted that interest rates may fall.

The pound may be low against the dollar and the Euro but it will recover when we start trading with the rest of the world. There are 169 other countries with whom we can do business.

I note you are currently resident in Tenerife, presumably working and paying taxes. You are lucky, Spain has one of the highest unemployment rates in the EU at over 20 per cent, compare that to the UK where it is a little over five per cent.

In the event of an emergency you will have no hesitation in high-tailing it back home, no doubt expecting the UK taxpayer to bail you and your family out.

Enjoy the sunshine (while it lasts)

TREVOR MANSELL
Stourbridge

No such thing as 'freebies'

US oldies seem to have upset an ex-pat living in Tenerife.

I would just like to like to point out that us oldies were the youngies who voted to join the Common Market all those years ago.

Most of us have regretted it ever since.

We oldies also know there are no such things as freebies, admittedly some people get things for nothing but somebody somewhere pays for them.

I would like G Fletcher to tell us if he/she still visits the UK for their health requirements or gets treatment from the free Spanish health service and returns their cold weather payments.

I think Common Market OK, European Union No.

P WILLIS
Stourbridge

Work with Corbyn for ordinary people

THE referendum brought about something other than exit from the EU; it demonstrated that our MPs are more committed to their party and careers than they are to their constituents.

The referendum came about through UKIP and because a large number of Conservative MPs demanded it, while Labour MPs were prepared to ignore their constituents and vote Remain.

Anti-Corbyn Labour MPs say they want a party that represents ordinary people. But where were they when zero hours contracts were introduced, when the country was flooded with cheap labour instead of embracing new technology or when we stopped training nurses but stole them from abroad?

Corbyn may not be charismatic but he wants a return to policies that reflect the needs of ordinary people. What will the anti-Corbyn brigade do when he is re-elected, have another election? Why not work with him to get back to working for ordinary people?

B OSBORNE
Dudley

Don't blame me for Brexit

I FEEL I must reply to the letter posted by G Fletcher stating that they wish to thank the elderly people for betraying the young of our country in the Brexit vote – how can you blame ALL the elderly people, have you asked each and everyone, because you missed me.

I voted to stay and I am sure I wasn't the only one so please don't assume it was just the elderly that voted to leave. I do know young people that voted to leave.

Concerning the freebies you stated that we get, I retired at the end of 2015 having worked until I was 69 never claiming benefits – just maternity benefit – always paying income tax and national insurance, so I think I am entitled to your so called freebies. Please lay off the elderly, everything that happens in the world is not our fault.

S PHILLIPS
Kingswinford

Sore loser

RE the sore loser letter from G Fletcher from Tenerife.

It's so factually incorrect on bus passes, free prescriptions, etc, which are all funded by the UK government – not the bloated EU.

And his reading of the stock market makes me think that his finger's not on the financial button at all!

As for his idyllic life in Tenerife, let's see how fast he tries to scurry back when the corrupt EU empire collapses and, one by one, remaining member nations demand their own referendums. Adios amigo!

MR D WALLACE
Dudley

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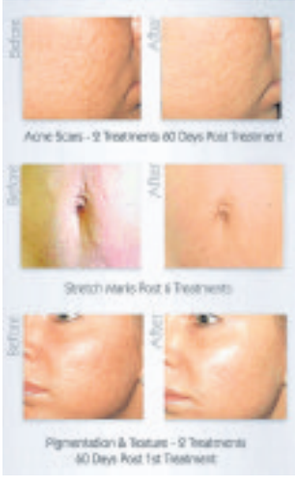

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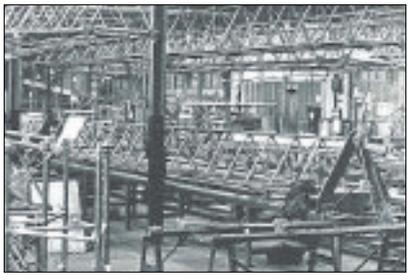
Jack Holmes at work restoring a Boulton Paul Balliol aircraft

Frank Clarke (right) at work at Boulton Paul with twocolleagues

The Boulton Paul Balliol prototype in flight over Wolverhampton Airport

Frank Clarke (in glasses, seated) at Boulton Paul event



The factory in Norwich filled with R.101 girders

Small aircraft section with a big reputation

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

IN 1936 around 600 Norfolk men moved to Wolverhampton. They had worked for the Aircraft Department of Boulton & Paul Ltd in Norwich, a diverse company most famous for its woodwork, but which had built aircraft since 1915.

The aircraft section remained small but with a big reputation. It had built more Sopwith Camels than Sopwiths themselves, the first all-metal aircraft delivered to the Royal Air Force, the first aircraft with an enclosed power operated gun turret and the R.101 Airship, still the largest aircraft ever built in Great Britain.

From 1926-29 the company's factory was filled with all the innumerable parts of the airship's structure, which would make an aircraft nearly 800ft long and 130ft in diameter. Steel girders 70ft long, with twist and curve, to a tolerance of plus or minus 0.3 in, which when delivered to the giant airship sheds at Cardington, had to fit perfectly

When the aircraft department was sold off, and moved to a new factory at Pendeford, the men had little choice but to uproot their families and move. One of them was Frank Clarke, who was to become the last survivor of the men who worked on the R.101.

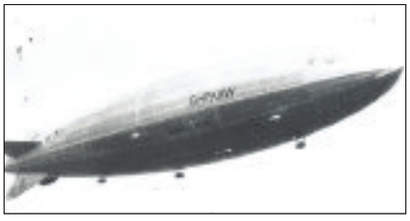
In 1938 he completed 25 years service with the company and was given a silver mug, engraved with the signatures of more than 100 of his colleagues, including men who had made the same move from Norwich like Bill Monument and Alf Charlton, and men newly employed in Wolverhampton, like test pilot, Cecil Feather. This mug has been donated to the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre by his daughter, along with some of Frank's tools, photographs, and wartime ARP badges.

When the mug was donated, Jack Holmes, the first Honorary Member of the TTHC, was present.

Signature

He too had made the journey from Norwich, with his father, Billy Holmes, mother and brother, and was able to find his father's signature on the mug, and to recognise many of the men who he was later to work alongside, when he was apprenticed.

The Heritage Centre has on display many of the artefacts which has made the city's transport heritage so rich, but also tries to highlight the individual contributions of ordinary men like Frank Clarke and Jack Holmes.



The R.101 airship in flight

The engraved silver mug presented to Frank Clarke

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Over 40 Years Experience

Sir Lenny backs call to crown unsung heroes

SIR Lenny Henry CBE has become the latest celebrity to endorse the Express & Star's Great Big Thank You Awards.

The much-loved Dudley-born star was at Birmingham City University, where the actor, comedian and writer became Chancellor.

The 57-year-old was knighted last year for services to drama and charity and has been a prominent campaigner on increasing diversity in the arts.

Speaking of the Great Big Thank You Awards, Sir Lenny said: "There are a lot of unsung heroes out there in our communities and it's great the Express & Star is working to recognise these heroes, whether they be superb teachers, community leaders, much-loved neighbours, young stars or just people who go about their daily lives looking to make our communities better places to be."

Sir Lenny Henry shows his support for the Thank You! Awards

Ceremony

The awards aim to recognise the diverse range of talent and skills in the Black Country, as well as those that make a difference to our communities.

People from across the region can nominate anyone for one of 10 prestigious awards: Teacher of the Year, Unsung Sporting Hero of the Year, Angel of the Year, Inspirational Leader of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Young Star of the Year, Community Champion of the Year, Grandparents of the Year, Fundraiser of the Year or Environmentalist of the Year.

The awards ceremony will take place on January 19 next year at Molineux, in a event attended by well-known celebrities and significant figures. The aim is to put the spotlight on the people who bring our communities together. Someone who makes a difference to where you live, the work you do, or those you care about. Perhaps they are the person you always turn to for advice,, someone who always goes the extra mile to help? Perhaps they have helped your area to improve?

Maybe they are just someone known as being someone you can trust to do the best for you and where you live? Or done their utmost to promote their Black Country roots, someone who has encouraged people to think more positively about the West Midlands and deserves to be 'Ambassador of the Year'?

You may know someone special who, even though they're so young, has strived to achieve their goals in the last 12 months, working hard in their chosen hobby or sport to triumph against the adversity of an illness or long-term condition. Do you think they deserve the title 'Young Star of the Year'?

There might be someone you know who inspires people, someone with leadership qualities. Are they your 'Inspirational Leader of the Year?' Or maybe there is someone who is a true angel to you and your family, working tirelessly caring for someone you love?

We've launched a website where you can nominate your unsung heroes, and find out more about each category and the sponsors. Go to: http://www.start-hankyou.expressandstar.co.uk/

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Sun shines as vintage motors rolled out

Classic car show hailed a Triumph by organiser

Maurice Cole with his Daimler Dart

Dexter Bradley, aged three, of Bilston

Damon Sykes with his 1932 MG J2 at West Midlands Classic Car Club show

THE sun shone as car enthusiasts showed off their gleaming motors in the historic surroundings of Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Dozens of vintage vehicles rolled into the castle courtyard in the heart of the zoo grounds for the West Midlands Classic Car Club show on Sunday.

Owners were on hand to talk to visitors about their cars which dated from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Among them was John O'Callaghan from Stourbridge, who brought along his blue 1978 Triumph Stag and Damon Sykes from Oldbury with his 1932 MG J2.

Martyn and Anna Harbourne from Bewdley also joined in the fun with their series 1 Fixed Head E Type Jaguar.

Highlight

Show organiser Maurice Cole from Dudley brought along five of his cars which included a Daimler Dart from 1961. Mr Cole has described the event as the highlight of the club's year.

The West Midlands Classic Car Club was founded in 1978 and has more than 100 members from across the country, with the furthest living in Cornwall.

Mr Cole said the show was a great success, adding: "It was a fantastic day. We had 80-odd cars altogether and we were busy with visitors all day.

"It was our 28th year of holding the show at the zoo and as always everyone enjoyed themselves."

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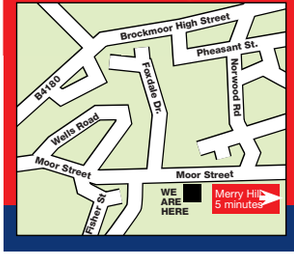

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Pitter-patter of tiny hooves is heard at the zoo paddock

SUMMER isn't usually the season associated with reindeer – or the birth of any baby animals – but last week, on the hottest day of the year so far, a zoo welcomed a new arrival.

Seven-year-old reindeer Lily gave birth in the early hours and the youngster has already taken its first steps in the paddock at Dudley Zoo.

Senior keeper Sarah Evans said: "At first, Lily kept the calf indoors, possibly because of the heat. When it got slightly cooler, she took it out to join the herd.

"It's been feeding well, but we haven't got close enough to find out its sex yet.

"The rutting season is usually in the autumn, but we brought in a new alpha male called Ghost before Christmas and, clearly, he quickly got down to business.

"It's wonderful to have the pitter-patter of tiny hooves again out in the paddock."

Meanwhile, a primate keeper at the Castle Hill attraction got crafty with power tools when it came to constructing new enrichment activities for the zoo's six black howler monkeys.

Recycling branches from pruned ash trees at the site, Jade Reddall drilled one-inch holes and filled them with warm mashed potato.

She said: "That's one of their favourite foods but I also added some mashed sweet potato too, so it gave them a different flavour to taste. I added them around their enclosure as well as clipping some onto the webbing rope, so that they could move them around. They reacted really well, it was brilliant to watch and all five howlers get involved as they worked to get the potato."

Seven-year-old reindeer Lily and her newborn calf ventured into the paddock when it got cooler at the zoo

Meetings focus on residents' issues

A SERIES of tenants and residents association meetings (TRAs) are being held next month.

The groups in Dudley discuss many issues relating to their estates and discuss ideas of how they can help to make improvements to enrich residents' lives.

The meetings include one hosted by Old Park Farm TRA at Sycamore Centre on August 1 at 6pm.

Vicarage Prospect TRA will host a coffee morning on August 2 at 63 Claverley Court from 10.30am until 12.30pm

Corbyns Bromley TRA's meeting is taking place at 7pm on August 8 at Pensnett Bromley Senior Citizens Club.

Norton Green TRA is holding a walkabout of the estate on August 22. Residents should be meet in Caslon Crescent at 2pm. Wollaston Farm TRA is hosting a community information day on August 26 at Kent Road Park, from 10am until 3pm.

Anyone who wishes to attend the meetings should telephone 01384 815168 to ensure the meeting is still taking place, as they may be subject to change.

'Despicable' driver gets two years road ban

A MOTORIST was prepared to ask four people to lie in a desperate bid to avoid a conviction for dangerous driving, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Adnan Aslam originally insisted that he was not behind the wheel of the Mazda which failed to stop when instructed by police – and tried to construct an alibi for his trial.

But before the case could be heard the 30-year-old had a change of heart and admitted responsibility.

He had been seen going slowly through a red traffic light in Stafford Street, Dudley, before accelerating away when ordered to stop by officers in a patrol car.

Mr Andrew Wilkins, prosecuting, also revealed that motor trader Aslam went the wrong way round a traffic island and raced through streets at up to 60 mph, forcing police pursuers to give up the chase because it presented too great a danger to other road users.

Crashed

But he was spotted soon afterwards in Sandyfields Road, Sedgley, where he again refused to halt, so a police van was used to block his path in Zoar Street, Gornal Wood.

The defendant managed to squeeze past the obstruction but crashed into a nearby police car, ignored another red light and continued to his home in Dudley where the Mazda was finally found parked on the drive.

Miss Sarah Buckingham, defending, explained: "He

By John Scott

was unable to face up to his responsibilities because he was terrified of going to prison."

Judge John Wait observed: "This was a determined attempt to escape from police officers. He then set up an elaborate defence seeking to have four people perjure themselves in court before abandoning his claim that he was not the driver.

"This had been deliberate deception that caused this case to be listed for trial on more than one occasion.

"When the police caught up with him he lied, continued to lie and tried to get others to lie. He is a coward.

"His behaviour that night was despicable, as was his behaviour afterwards, until he came to his senses and pleaded guilty."

Aslam from Beech Green, Old Park Farm, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and was given an eight-month jail sentence suspended for two years with 200 hours unpaid work together with £2,800 costs, a £2,000 fine and a two-year driving ban.

Revamp of pitches after £1,800 grant

A SPORTS group has netted a £1,800 grant to revamp its football pitches.

Kinver Sports and Community Association will use the cash to buy much-needed goalposts, a line marker, flags and posts for use on the village's pitch in Legion Drive.

The funding, from Councillor Brian Edwards and South Staffordshire District Council, means more teams will be able to use the facilities.

Chairman of Kinver Sports and Community Association Rachel Davis said: "We are very grateful to county, district and parish councillor Brian Edwards MBE who provided £1,000 from his members budget as well South Staffordshire District Council who funded the remainder of the cost.

"The new equipment allows both pitches to be used simultaneously which means more teams can make use of Kinver's great football facility."

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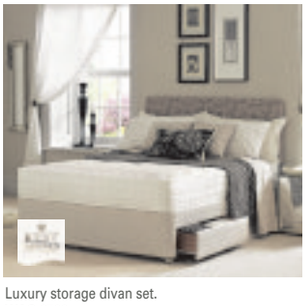

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Beck's back with furious fretwork

ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

HERE'S a rarity, a genuine rock guitar legend who seems to be getting angrier as he gets older.

Whilst others from his generation may choose gentle blandness, **Jeff Beck** is back with a piledriver punk-blues sound collaboration with London duo Bones (singer Rosie Bones and guitarist Carmen Vandenberg) on **Loud Hailer**, his first album in six years.

The messages ain't subtle, laying into politicians, the rich and warmongers, but Beck's playing is superb, even if he sometimes sounds like a guest on his own record.

Scottish rockers **Biffy Clyro** have gone from quirky alt-rockers to stadium fillers. Seventh album **Ellipsis** starts off in potent style with Wolves of Winter reminding listeners of Simon Neil's vocal power and the lithe potency of the band at their Chili Pepper hottest. However, after that things slide into blandness with the exception of the pulsating Animal Style.

Thirty years on from their debut, popular Swedish pop-rock duo **Roxette** (Marie Fredriksson and Per Gessle) still have a knack for big melodic ballads (It Just Happens, April Clouds) and pop anthems (Why Dontcha?, Good Karma, Some Other Summer) on album number 10, entitled **Good Karma**.

A mellow introspection seems to have crept up on California's sock-bothering funk-rockers **Red Hot Chili Peppers** on their 11th album as **The Getaway** is a slow grower rather than the instant gratification we're used to from them. It's the outfit's first album in decades without Rick Rubin at the controls but Danger Mouse keeps the sound streamlined. Singer Anthony Kiedis, bass star Flea, drummer Chad Smith and guitarist Josh Klinghoffer remain a tight unit. Highlights include the sullen Dark Necessities and the downbeat anthem The Longest Wave.

Jeff Beck with the Bones singer Rosie Bones and guitarist Carmen Vandenberg

The Essential Louise Goffin Vol 1 is the eighth album from the eldest daughter of musical greats Carole King and the late Gerry Goffin. She is a talented singer-songwriter in the New York tradition, though her pleasant and intelligent folk-pop is always likely to be overshadowed by her parent's incredible musical legacy. However, she takes that head-on with a creditable version of (You Make Me Feel) Like A Natural Woman. Highlights include her duet with another famous offspring, Jakob Dylan, on Take A Giant Step, the Go-Go's-ish Watching The Sky Turn Blue and the Lana Del Ray-like Devil's Door (with Cyanide Social Club).

Multi-instrumentalist Joe Mount (AKA **Metronomy**) is back with slinky, funky album **Summer 08** in which the maverick Devonian creates sparse and tightly sprung rhythms in the mode of Girls & Boys era Prince. Openers Back Together and Miami Logic could almost be a tribute to the late great funk-rock star in his Purple patch. Highlights include single Old Skool, soul pop gem My House and the Hang Me Out To Dry collaboration with Robyn.

Only previously available on vinyl albums, Various Artists double CD **Africa Airways One & Two** is an invigorating introduction to African funk from the 70s and early 80s. Several big hitters are here including Cameroon sax star Manu Dibango (Mimbo) and South Africa's Myriam Makeba (with a tribute to Toyota cars!). Best are a couple of propulsive rare grooves, Tala AM's Black Gold and Jo Tongo's Jangolo.

Minor Victories are an indie supergroup, featuring Mogwai's Stuart Braithwaite, Slowdive singer Rachel Goswell, Editors guitarist Justin Lockey and his brother James. On their self-titled debut they create an atmospheric shoegaze revival sound with waves of guitar-synth topped by Rachel's soothing vocal. It's very nice, particularly if formative years were spent listening to the Cocteau Twins, Kitchens of Distinction and, indeed, Slowdive.

Sky's the limit for wise guy musical

REVIEW

By Graeme Andrew

Guys and Dolls
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

STAYING true to the original, the rollicking musical love-story, Guys and Dolls – set among the illegal craps-game hoodlums of New York's 1930s – brought a breath of fresh air to an otherwise rather sticky Grand Theatre.

The first thing to gain the audience's attention on arriving at their seat, apart from the heat – yep, hottest night of the year, and dressing up to the nines was not really a welcome option – was the set, there and ready.

No curtain to raise, just a solo trumpet's jazzy meanderings helping transport us back to the seedy underworld of nearly a century ago.

The array of old-style advertising hoardings were a treat to look at as they hung over the stage...then kerzam! Light explodes, bringing the signs' colours to life; the orchestra crashes into action, and we're off.

Charm

Nathan Detroit is the kingpin of the craps game – dice to you and me – and he is being chased around town by the cops as he tries to find a venue for the next evening's entertainment.

Played by Frank Sinatra in the famous film, Maxwell Caulfield – yes, he of The Colbys fame – brings a certain happy-go-lucky charm to the role, hounded by showgirl Miss Adelaide, admirably portrayed by Louise Dearman, to whom he's been engaged for 14 years.

It is their chemistry that helps move things along while fellow crapshooters Nicely Nicely Johnson (Jack Edwards) and Benny Southstreet (Mark Sangster) hound the hapless Detroit for a game. Entering into the melee is of course Sky Masterson, Richard Fleeshman, who is egged on as a bet to take out Salvation Army girl, Sarah Brown (Bethany Lindsell).

Richard Fleeshman takes centre stage as Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls

Fleeshman revels in the opportunity to strike a pose in his zoot suit, with his matinee idol good looks and a voice to match, showing a velvety tone Sinatra himself would have been proud of.

But it is Jack Edwards as Nicely who brings things to a head in the brilliantly conceived prayer meeting scene which showcases Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat – so much so that it is reprised several times!

Made famous by Stubby Kaye in the movie, Edwards's performance is a respectful nod to what is generally regarded as the defining Nicely Nicely portrayal.

The fact that he is of a similar build helps matters, but his voice simply soars, making the scene inside the mission hall the best by far, with the whole cast gelling brilliantly together.

Choreographically, there were moments when there seemed to be maybe too much going on to take in all at once. However, the big scene did not disappoint – the craps game itself, with highly-effective lighting to simulate the sewers, almost like a strobe light at times while figures blitzed around the stage like dervishes. Brilliant.

Finally, the comedy laurels must be awarded to Louise Dearman as Adelaide – a stage veteran with an impressive CV, who wrung as many laughs as she could out of the script and let the lyrics tell their own story without trying to over-perform them.

Thankfully, the musical numbers Sue Me, Take Back Your Mink, and Adelaide's Laments, more than held their own, and it wasn't a case of just building up to the inevitable Luck Be a Lady, which was relatively low-key in comparison, perhaps rightly so, as there are so many other song highlights.

In a world of pop performer's songs being joined together with flimsy plots, it's nice to see that traditional musicals such as this can still hold their own, but then that could be me being a bit picky – so, I'd better sit down, I'm rockin' the boat.

Artwork used to drive campaign

HALESOWEN College graphics students were challenged to use words and images in a campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender awareness.

Students put together posters to influence and reflect their era and to comment on social issues in a campaign for LGBT tolerance and awareness.

Elly Barnes who has developed the Educate and Celebrate Best Practice Programme and colleague Zitta Lomax judged the students' posters.

They found the standard really high and thought-provoking.

Two students were given joint first place – Daniyal Khan and Serena Henderson. Second place went to George Thorne and third to Oliver Wigley-Mattheison.

Gillian Dunkerley, Graphics lecturer at Halesowen College, said: "Well done to all our brilliant students who made such a good job of this assignment that aims to promote understanding and tolerance."

MEP calls for referendum on return of death penalty

UKIP leadership contender Dudley's Bill Etheridge has called for the reintroduction of the death penalty to 'rid British society' of its worst criminals.

The candidate said 'the very worst crimes deserved the ultimate penalty' as he called for a referendum on capital punishment, which was abolished in the UK in 1965.

It is part of Mr Etheridge's manifesto as he bids to replace Nigel Farage as party leader. But critics have questioned why he backs a policy favoured in dictatorships such as North Korea.

The West Midlands MEP, who is also a Dudley councillor, said: "Time and time again, in recent years, terrible crimes have been committed and the public left with no real sense of justice.

Debate

"I believe the time is now right to allow a full and open debate on the issue of the death penalty culminating in a referendum of the British public to settle this issue.

"For my part I believe that the very worst crimes deserve the ultimate penalty and I propose that those who murder and rape children, those that commit sadistic acts of murder and torture and those that commit acts of murder through terrorism against our country or our people should be subject to the death penalty at the discretion of the presiding judge.

"We must rid British society of these people. I would vigorously promote this line of thinking in a debate and trust the British people to make the decision on this ultimate matter of conscience."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said: "I am surprised that Bill wants Britain to be more like Iran, North Korea and Uganda."

UKIP Euro MP Bill Etheridge

Cancer support offered for free

FREE cancer support sessions are being offered at the White House in Dudley.

The course begins on August 16 and run until September 20.

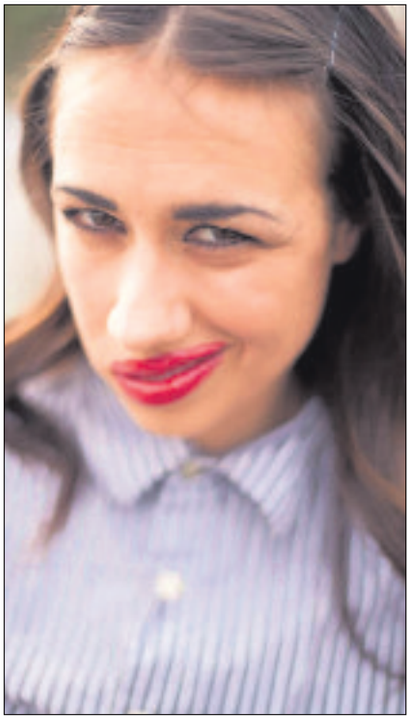
The course is run for adults living with cancer and aims to help people take more control over their health.

Topics covered over the six-week course include getting a good night's sleep, coping with difficult emotions/depression, relaxation techniques, exercise and healthy eating, communicating with family, friends and health professionals, dealing with pain and extreme tiredness.

The sessions last for two-and-a-half hours with refreshment breaks of tea and biscuits.

Free parking is available at the site. To sign up, call White House Cancer Support on 01384 23123 or call Dudley Self-Management Team on 01384 816437.

YouTube sensation at Symphony Hall



Back off haters – Miranda Sings is a massive success

INTERNET sensation Miranda Sings is coming to Birmingham next month.

The lipstick smeared wannabe with no discernible talent is about to star in new Netflix TV series Haters Back Off and is the comic creation of Californian singer and actress Colleen Ballinger.

The quirky YouTube star, who has been viewed more than 60 million times via the video network, has been a smash hit with her own take on dance styles such as twerking, Miranda'd up versions of recent hit songs and hapless self-help tutorials.

Tickets cost £30 (plus £3 commission) for her concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday, August 13, at 8pm. See the thsh.co.uk website. Call 0121 780 3333.

Other comedy highlights coming up at the Symphony Hall include South Shields comic Sarah Millican on August 29 and 30. Its sister venue Birmingham Town Hall features Bake Off and Thronecast host Sue Perkins on September 18, Romesh Ranganathan exploring his own 'Irrational' views on October 9 and 12, and Jason Byrne on October 16.

Oust Corbyn to stop Tories, says Austin

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has urged Labour members to oust Jeremy Corbyn to avoid giving the Tories 'another free pass' into power at the next General Election.

Mr Austin, one of the party leader's fiercest critics, said it was his priority to make areas of the West Midlands the focus of a future Labour government, which he said was impossible under the current regime.

Mr Corbyn has come under pressure to resign, but has vowed to fight and win the party's leadership election.

Mr Austin said: "I want Labour members to think long and hard about whether they can really honestly see Jeremy Corbyn as a strong and competent Prime Minister on the steps of Number 10, negotiating with the American President or Vladimir Putin, because areas like ours will lose out again if we give the Tories another free pass.

"My priority is getting a Labour government that will make places like Dudley the priority."

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Jay Sayce, aged 15, from Dudley, looks for Pokemon at Priory ruins

Sam Dalloway, aged 23, Darragh Rafferty, 24, Lee Farmer, 28 at the gathering

Rajesh Gupta and his daughter Kavita, aged 13, from Dudley

Lee Farmer, aged 28, from Dudley, among the gamers at the Priory ruins

Enthusiasts check out the Pokemon during the gathering in Dudley

Pokemon fans Go Wylde

WHEN Keiran Wylde and his friends decided to set up a meet and greet for Pokemon Go players in the Black Country, they expected about 'two people to turn up'.

But around 80 flocked to their first event at Dudley Ruins.

Now the group has reached more than 400 members online and counting.

Keiran, aged 22, from Brierley Hill, said: "I know that Pokemon Go had a big following but how quickly the group has grown is quite astonishing really. All kinds of people have been turning up. I think the success of is the way the game works and all the PokeStops available that you need progress in the game. It does bring people together."

Keiran and five of his friends, all aged around 22 to 24, set up the group, called Pokemon Go: Black Country, for a bit of fun, but didn't expect it to grow so quickly.

Lazy

It is open for anyone to join on Facebook and Keiran said: "I would encourage everyone to get involved. We have families who attend and moms and dads will be playing alongside their children.

"It gets people out the house and walking. I am quite lazy but to be fair this gets me out the house."

He estimated around a dozen people will be at Dudley Ruins playing the game every day. "Some people will be there sitting in their cars until 3am," he said.

The group meets at the historic site normally every Saturday around 6-7pm.

"Everyone gets involved. If anyone finds a rare Pokemon you get lots of people running to try and catch it. Everyone takes chairs and umbrellas to the site, there is even an ice cream man who sets up there."

With Pikachu is Kieran Wylde, aged 22, of Dudley, who set up the group

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Family's thanks after rugby tribute success

THE family of a popular rugby player who passed away from cancer shortly after marrying his teenage sweetheart, say they were overwhelmed by the support at a memorial match.

Robbie Eves from Stourbridge died earlier this month, aged 34, following a battle with bowel and liver cancer.

He was well-known in his hometown having played at Stourbridge Rugby Club since the age of six, and in his honour a benefit match was held at the Bridgnorth Road ground in Stourton Park.

Around 1,000 people turned out to pay their respects, with money from donations, match tickets, a raffle and an auction so far raising £15,000, with more continuing to pour in.

This will go towards a trust fund for Robbie's widow Gemma and their two sons, four-year-old Ruaridh and 22-month-old Éuan, as well as to a charity of their choice.

Widow Gemma and son Ruaridh

Robbie on his wedding day

The teams line up for the charity match in Robbie Eves' memory

Applause

Speaking at the match, Gemma gave a heartfelt tribute to her late husband and thanked supporters. An applause also rang out in Robbie's memory.

Fittingly Ruaridh followed in his father's footsteps and brought the ball on to the pitch to start the game, which was played between Robbie's old teammates from Stourbridge RFC and the Old Swinford Hospital School.

Robbie's brother Alex said: "It was absolutely phenomenal, and a sign of what a great guy he was.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who came out for the occasion. It was a fitting tribute. The rugby club really came through and I want to thank them for everything they did, and everyone who was involved. Seeing so many people there was very overwhelming, and I was very proud that it was for my brother."

Robbie and Gemma wed at St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge after 16 years together. They had planned to wed this September, but the ceremony was brought forward after Robbie was diagnosed with stage four cancer. Prior to his death planning for the benefit match had already begun.

After his early start at Stourbridge RFC, Robbie progressed through the club and aged 16 was part of a successful team which won The North Midlands Cup. At the same time he was a valued member of his school's rugby team, with whom he enjoyed a tour of Australia in 2000.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Corporal Wendy Robert plays the Last Post during the unveiling of the memorial stone

Sandwell Mayor Julie Webb lays a wreath at the memorial stone in tribute to the bravery of Cpl Joseph John Davies, who was awarded the Victoria Cross

Joe James Thomas seen performing for the gathered crowd at the memorial

Veteran Dave Edmonds aged 77, with Royal Yeomanry Sgt Ian Nicholls and Cpl Tom Biddlestone based in Dudley

Cpl Joseph Davies seen in his uniform

Town remembers true hero Joseph

HE was 'one of the bravest of the brave' – Corporal Joseph Davies saved the lives of eight comrades during the Battle of the Somme.

His heroic actions at Delville Wood on July 20, 1916 later saw the dedicated soldier from Tipton awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V.

This bravery was celebrated on Saturday when a memorial stone honouring Cpl Davies was unveiled by his family at Victoria Park. Born on April 28, 1889, in Nock Street, Tipton, the military was in his blood as his father John had served with the Royal Fusiliers in India and the Afghanistan campaign of 1878 to 1880.

After attending Great Bridge Council School he went on to work at Old Park Works in Wednesbury before leaving to join theArmy in 1909. He was serving in India when the First World War broke out was soon redeployed to France. But in March 1915, he suffered shrapnel wounds to the head before having his knuckles smashed by a German bayonet a few months later. He was then on garrison duty in Gibraltar. In May 1916, now a corporal, he was sent to the 10th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers on the Somme.

Delville Wood was heavily defended by German troops and on July 20 the Fusiliers were ordered to attack, but the Germans launched their own counter-attack. They were successfully beaten off but then came back a second time. The Welsh continued to attack but in the general confusion they were were fired upon by adjacent British troops.

During this time, Cpl Davies and eight men became separated from the rest of their company and suddenly found themselves surrounded. He managed to get his men into a shell hole and by throwing bombs and opening rapid fire he succeeded in routing the Germans. Not content with this, he chased after them and bayoneted several of them.

Cpl Davies's bravery that day was witnessed by an officer who reported it and he received his Victoria Cross from King George V on October 7 1916 at Buckingham Palace. Civic receptions were also held in his honour in Tipton and Wednesbury.

He survived the war and went on to live in Bournemouth until his death on February 16, 1976, aged 86. He was married to Elsie and had two daughters Irene and Victoria as well as four grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

Cpl Davies's proud grandsons Mike Howard, 63, and Bernard Harvey, 66, and great-grandson Ian Harvey, 36, travelled from Dorset for the celebration event. "We are really proud. We've grown up with it but I didn't realise how special he was to people in Tipton," said Bernard.

The Northfield Caledonian Pipes and Drums help to give the event a bit of pomp and circumstance on Saturday

From left, Joe's great grandson Ian Harvey, aged 36, grandson, Mike Howard, 63 and grandson Bernard Harvey, 66

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Old friend proud of best man 'Big Sam'

NOT many can claim that they had an England manager as their best man.

Yet that is exactly what Brian Milner from Dudley can proudly say now that his childhood friend Sam Allardyce has taken on arguably the biggest job in English football.

"I want to say how proud we are of Sam and how much we are all supporting him. He still has a lot of friends around here," says the 61-year-old.

Brian still lives in the same house on Ash Green in Dudley, across the communal green from where Allardyce grew up at number one. It was on that very grass that they used to play football together with other neighbouring children.

The pair both attended Sycamore Green Primary and then went on to do their secondary eduction at Wren's Nest School, later known as Mons Hill School.

Fate

"We used to muck about and play 20-a-side on the green. We had some fun and Sam was always a good friend. He was loyal. From the age of about three to around 15 he was like a brother, because we grew up together," said Brian.

It was at the age of 15 that Allardyce, who was already impressing at Dudley Town, was spotted by a Bolton Wanderers scout and made the move up north. However that wasn't the end of his and Brian's friendship.

As fate would have it the two friends both fell for women called Lynn, and all four of them would meet up back in Dudley for nights out. Then came the weddings. "I got married in May 1974 and he got married in June," said Brian. "My wedding was at a registry office in Dudley, and his was a big do in a castle in Cheshire. He must have been in the first team at Bolton by then."He has always been big Sam. He was 5ft 10 by the time he was 11, and he was as big as the teachers at our school."

Brian Milner with pictures featuring himself and 'Big Sam'

Early on he also showed that he was prepared to put in the hard work. "He had got the determination," says Brian. "He would take on all sorts of jobs – these footballers would laugh now – but he would think nothing of cutting grass for someone."

Although they haven't seen each other in person for many years, Brian is still in regular contact through Facebook with Lynn Allardyce, who has been keeping him updated with his friend's career, including his latest appointment.

Brian, a factory worker at Pressvess in Kingswinford, enjoyed playing in community teams for years, and has passed his love of football on to his three children and four grandsons.

His eldest grandson Raymond Milner is showing promise at Dudley Town and another, Kyle, 11, plays for Lye Town.

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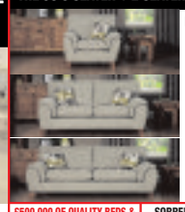

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Work forges ahead on new skills hub

WORK is about to begin on part of a new jobs-boosting manufacturing skills centre in Tipton. Project bosses gathered for the start of demolition work at the Dudley Port site where a hub teaching foundry and pattern-making skills is due to be built.

The enterprise will be an arm of a new £12 million Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) in Wolverhampton, with training hubs also in West Bromwich and Dudley. Students in Tipton will have access to the industrial facilities at the Thomas Dudley foundry on the same site.

The aim of the training centres, made possible by £8m investment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, is to improve productivity and growth in the high-value manufacturing sector.

They are also designed to bring together business partners and education providers, including Dudley College, the Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers, who are investing £4m.

Led by the University of Wolverhampton, the project will collectively provide specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern-making, metalforming, forging, manufacturing management and leadership and project management.

Professor Ian Oakes, the university's deputy vice chancellor, said: "This is a key strategic project and provides another huge step forward in the regeneration of Wolverhampton and the Black Country and will boost the economy and create jobs."

Martin Dudley, joint managing director of TDL, said: "The start of construction work is an exciting landmark in the development of the Elite Centre."

"When complete, the facility will help to develop the foundry leaders of tomorrow, by focusing on the value-adding skills that provide British businesses with a huge-advantage over our foreign competitors."

The toolmaking spoke will be principally located in West Bromwich under the guidance of the Confederation of British Metalforming. Metal joining and advanced machining training will be covered by the installation of new equipment and the use of existing equipment at the recently opened Dudley Advance at Dudley College.

The Wolverhampton centre, at the old Springfield Brewery, is to open next August.

From left, Trevor Ayre, senior vice-president of the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers, Professor Ian Oakes, deputy vice-chancellor at Wolverhampton University, Martin Dudley from Thomas Dudley and Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP

Student's donation after long locks cut off for charity

A HALESOWEN College student has made a special donation of her hair to help children who have lost theirs during cancer treatment.

Abigail Caplen's hair will be donated to The Little Princess Trust which provides real hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland who have lost their own hair.

She was given the haircut by Level Three hairdressing student Charlotte Whatmore at the College's campus at Shenstone House.

The hairdressing students also raised money through a cake sale.

Abigail said: "I have wanted to do this for some time and I have been really pleased with the response. Thank you to everyone for their support."

Abigail studies science, maths and business at college and is a former pupil of Redhill School.

Meanwhile, graphics students at Halesowen College have been competing for votes in a special Camper Jam poster competition.

Lecturer Gillian Dunkerley exhibited a range of work at the Camper Jam 2016 show at Weston Park, Staffordshire, and asked visitors to vote on the winner. She received more than 200 votes and was involved in some lively and heated arguments.

First place went to Rhys Bramley, second place was Charley Radford and third place Shaun Williams.

Gill said: "It was really great to see so many people voting and giving their opinions on the posters. Everyone we spoke to was very positive and interested in the work and lost in admiration for the standard produced."

Ban after 'revulsion' over zombie knife sales

THERE has been a 'groundswell of revulsion' at how easy it is to obtain so-called zombie knives, a top government minister has said.

Home Office Minister Sarah Newton also praised the successful campaign to ban the lethal and vicious blades.

Last week the law was finally changed to ban the sale, import, manufacture, hire or lending of the weapons with a maximum six month prison sentence or fine on conviction. The ban comes into full force next month.

By Rob Golledge

During a Second Delegated Legislation Committee, Mrs Newton also praised the role of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, who campaigned for the ban after an investigation by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star exposed how the weapons were bought and sold online totally legally.

Weapons

She said: "I would also like to pay tribute to the PCC for the West Midlands in his campaign to have 'zombie knives' prohibited.

"There has been a groundswell of revulsion and disgust at how easily available these weapons are." Opposition frontbencher Carolyn Harris added: "We take great pride in this victory as Labour PCC for the West Midlands David Jamieson has campaigned for them to be outlawed. No reasonable person wants them available."

Following Mr Jamieson's visit to Westminster, Prime Minister Theresa May, then Home Secretary, said: "There can be no legitimate reason for anybody to need one of these."

The weapons, which can be up to 2ft in length, have names such as 'Head Splitter' and 'Decapitator'.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin also raised the issue in the House of Commons.

Walkers as one-sie for zoo fundraiser

MORE than £5,000 was raised at a fundraising walk for Dudley Zoo after it was left reeling by the recent death of a snow leopard and her cub.

Around 300 fundraisers helped with the snow leopard appeal by taking part in a onesie walk around the zoo grounds.

All generations took part in eye-catching outfits, and together helped to raise an impressive £5,500.

Breeding

After giving birth to male cub Milo on June 6, the zoo's seven-year-old snow leopard Nanga died from complications during labour. Milo died just four weeks later.

The zoo has plans to re-establish another snow leopard breeding pair in Dudley, by finding a new mate for six-year-old male Margaash.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

There's plenty of ways to keep children entertained

A trip to the cinema is always a favourite – the new Disney film Finding Dory is out next week

Keeping it fun for the whole summer holidays

By Sam Wylie-Harris

SUMMER'S here! Not that you'd necessarily know it, since, in typical British style, it's sunny one minute, pouring with rain the next.

But don't worry too much; while the unpredictable weather may stop us from heading to the great outdoors, there's plenty to keep the kids entertained under cover.

Here are 30 things to keep kids (and grown-ups!) entertained when the showers strike over the school holidays...

1. Take them trampolining – with all that bouncing around, the kids can burn off energy while having a good time.
2. Plan a trip to the movies – Finding Dory is released on July 29 at cinemas nationwide, and promises to be even bigger than Finding Nemo!
3. Colour yourselves calm by giving them a colouring book and lots of lovely bright crayons to keep them amused (parents can benefit from the stress-busting benefits of colouring-in too).
4. Take them on a big day out. There are plenty of places to visit in Shropshire – or venture further afield for a day in one of the big cities.
5. Banish boredom with a board game. They're making a comeback, and who can resist a game of Monopoly?
6. It's a bake-off! Throw a cupcake party and get the kids to make cupcakes, they'll love spooning the icing from the mixing bowl.
7. Don't be puzzled thinking of things to do; get that 150-piece jigsaw out and you'll (hopefully) have peace and quiet for hours.
8. Make some ice lollies; just get the mould and wooden sticks and go wild with flavours.
9. Head for the park and take a picnic to make sure everyone gets a dose of fresh air.
10. Have an arty afternoon and take them to a gallery, which may inspire a culture vulture in the family.
11. A double decker bus tour is the best way to explore new places in the rain.
12. There's nothing like combining some healthy fear and fun; why not head to your nearest theme park and seek out the under-cover attractions, minus the crowds?
13. Discover the Making Of Harry Potter at the Warner Bros Studio Tour (www.wbstudiotour.co.uk).
14. Make a Superhero cape! It's easier than you think – all you need is a large T-shirt, scissors, felt and fabric glue. Visit www.netmums.com to find out how.
15. Get creative with pasta shells and glue and challenge the kids to a pasta canvas contest (you could promise spaghetti Bolognese for lunch as a reward).
16. Play hide 'n' seek. Traditional games never go out of fashion, and you'll be amazed how many nooks and crannies kids can hide in at home.
17. Hunker down with a good book – children love to be read to, plus it will improve their development and instil a love of reading. Win-win.

Paint a watercolour – the materials are cheap and you could discover your child has a hidden ability for creating masterpieces

Get outdoors, whatever the weather, and enjoy the fresh air

Splashing about in the swimming pool is great fun

18. Create a dressing-up box filled with clothes you no longer wear, girls and boys alike love dressing up. They could put on little plays for you too.
19. Host your own red carpet party - invite their friends over to watch a DVD and then get them to write a film review.
20. Splash about at the swimming pool.
21. A 24-lane bowling alley will keep them stimulated, and you can treat them to a milkshake afterwards.
22. If they love slides, swings and climbing frames, take them to an indoor play area.
23. Use the rubbish weather as an excuse for the children to tidy their rooms and get rid of loads of waste. You never know – make it a competition and they might love it!
24. Build a fortress. It's really easy: take the cushions off the sofa, hang sheets across the furniture and camp out.
25. Organise an indoor treasure hunt... trinkets, coins and sweets are all worth hunting down.
26. Escape to a cave! There's so much mystery when you enter a labyrinth of dark mysterious passageways.
27. Sea it to believe it... head to an aquarium and enjoy magnificent marine displays.
28. Paint a picture. Pretty watercolour paints, a few brushes and a little imagination are all it takes.
29. Go outside to the greenhouse, and plant some seeds without getting wet!
30. Download an app for the kids to play on your tablet or smartphone.

Here are 47 of the best which are cheap or free: www.pcadvisor.co.uk/test-centre/google-android/best-kids-apps-2016-best-apps-for-children-ipad-iphone-android-may-3464905/

Avoiding the pitfalls of buying second hand

Advertisement feature

Is it really worth buying second hand mobility products? CERI DIXON from specialist supplier Ableworld has the following advice.

OFTEN buying second hand isn't saving you money in either the short or long term. As always we all need to be careful with our money – but is second hand worth it?

If you do want to purchase an item second hand from a friend or even a dealer please be aware of the common pitfalls and dangers to look out for, such as:

• Is it Safe? If the product is electrical or battery operated we would suggest you get the product tested by a qualified engineer. Also check that the equipment is provided with the instructions.

• Is it suitable? Many customers have specific needs when shopping for a mobility product and although the price of a second-hand item may be appealing, please remember to check that the product is what you actually need as it may cause you more harm than good.

• Think of the extra costs? Please remember with many mobility products there may be ongoing costs if the product wasn't very well cared for by the previous owner. Consider the cost of parts and labour that may be required to maintain your second-hand product.

Mobility Scooters and Powerchairs

These are commonly bought second-hand and there are many dealers of these around. Please make sure you feel confident that the product you are buying is suitable and is in good working order. Definitely ask for an engineer's report with a battery test printout. Request the instruction leaflet and any warranty/guarantee that you have been promised in writing.

If you are "trading-in" please ensure the price you pay for your new scooter hasn't been inflated, and that you are getting a fair price for your old scooter. Most scooter models are available from many dealers so try and compare the price if you can.

Riser Recliner Chairs

The main issue with purchasing these second hand is the issue of health. Ensure the chair has been chemically treated to prevent any infectious bacteria being transferred. Ask your dealer for written confirmation that it has been suitably cleaned, for your peace of mind.

We would encourage you to think about any mobility purchase before going ahead and if possible discuss it with a friend or family member first. If possible try to compare the price you are offered to make sure you are getting the best deal.

Ableworld has reduced many items in its Summer Sale so you could get a brand new scooter or riser recliner for as little as £399, as well as many other offers in store or online.

We do also have finance options available if you want to spread the cost, please speak to our store staff for more details.

If you would like any advice or further assistance please contact your nearest Ableworld store or visit our website www.ableworld.co.uk

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Brits 'try six diets' before losing weight or giving up

IT'S a well-used phrase: diets don't work! At least, not in the long-run, with extreme eating plans just setting us up for years of yo-yoing and often even greater weight gain.

But many of us still can't resist the urge of a quick-fix, with the average Brit trying six different diets or eating plans before either reaching their weight-loss goals or giving up entirely, according to a new survey by online pharmaceutical company www.MedExpress.co.uk, which polled 2,156 UK adults.

In addition, 81 per cent who'd tried diets said they hadn't been successful, and 72 per cent confessed they'd tried starving themselves of following a fasting plan in a bid to shed the pounds. In terms of choosing which diet plan to follow, the number one factor was revealed as how easy the meals were to prepare (32 per cent), followed by still being allowed big portions (28 per cent), how quickly they'd see results (25 per cent), still being allowed alcohol and treats (19 per cent), and not having to do much exercise (18 per cent).

fast theticket

Miller time

Tommy Steeles show

Page 25

Glitz on stage

Page 25

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

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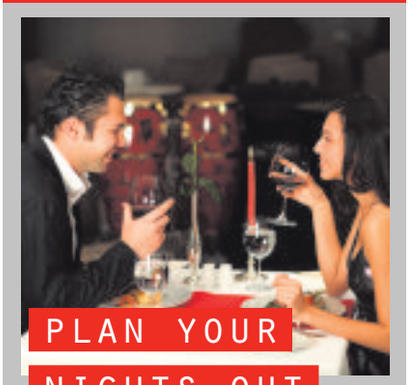

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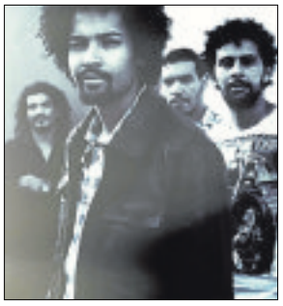

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Alan Knight
Tomorrow, 9pm, Free
The Crown Pub and Grill,
Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2BH.
Call 01922 451002

ROCK & METAL

The Nightingales
Tonight at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Hair Rock Experience
Tonight at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Stone Broken
Tomorrow at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Don Broco
Sun at 7pm, Mon at 7pm,
£15
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Smiths Tribute 'These Smiths', Joy Division Tribute 'Transmission', New Order Tribute 'True Order'
Tomorrow at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Beautiful Sound: The Beautiful South Tribute
Sun at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

U2-2: U2 Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Tax The Heat
Tomorrow at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL FUNK & MOTOWN

Mahalia
Tonight at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.Call 0871 472 0400

Mr Eazi
Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Femi And The Inrhythms
Tonight at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Lisa Stanley And Her Band
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL

Palestine Youth Orchestra
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Hacienda Classical
Sun at 3pm - 9pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

A Skegness Weekender Preview – Northern Soul
Tomorrow at 8pm, £8/£10
West Bromwich Town Hall,
B70 8DT. Call 0121 569 2616

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight - tomorrow at 10.30pm - 3.30am,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Nicetraxuk Release Party
Tonight - tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

THEATRE

Tres Tres Cabaret
Tomorrow at 8pm, £15.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Mamma Mia!
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28 - £60
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

The Noise Next Door Noise In The Hood
Tomorrow at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy Club
Sun at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight and tomorrow at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

Playful Penguins: Penguin Ice Adventure
Tomorrow at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Sun at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Food Markets
Sun at 10.30am,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Summer Holiday Family Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
Cadbury World, Bournville,
Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Crazy Clownfish: Talk
Tomorrow at 10.45am, Tue at 10.45am, Wed at 10.45am,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

The Hollywood Special Effects Show
Tue at 6pm, Wed at 2pm, 7pm,
£14.25 - £53
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Out'Ray'geous Rays: Talk
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Sun at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Mon at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Wed at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Oceanic Adventures: Ocean Tunnel
Tomorrow at 12pm, 4.30pm,
Sun at 12pm, 2pm, Mon at 2pm, 4.30pm, Tue at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Wed at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

OurShakespeare In The Park
Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Insane Championship Wrestling: Seven Nation Army
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Artforum
Wed at 4.30pm - 6.30pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Young Artists
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Kings Heath Food Assembly
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Land, Sea And Air
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall,
WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Lucy Howard
Mon at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm, Tue at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

Kan Xuan
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Jesse Bruton
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

All The World's A Stage
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Inspire 16: The Young Creatives Of Birmingham
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Tales Of The City
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Craft Goes Pop
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

The Lanchester Grand Circus
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Bantock House,
Wolverhampton,
WV3 9LQ.
Call 01902 552195

Curious Beauty
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Turning To See: From Van Dyck To Lucian Freud
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,
B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Laura Oldfield Ford: Chthonic Reverb
Wed at 12pm - 5pm, Thu at 12pm - 5pm,
Grand Union,
Minerva Works,
Birmingham,
B5 5RT.
Call 0121 643 9079

Birmingham People And Change In The Inner-City
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square,
Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Steele in the mood for big band hero

Tommy Steele, centre, with musicians and actors in The Glenn Miller Story, returning to the region Pic: Pamela Raith

TOMMY Steele's portrayal of American big band legend Glenn Miller in a new Bill Kenwright production thrilled fans over the past year, including audiences at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

So the show is enjoying an extended run that will take it through to the end of 2016 and it will feature at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from August 23 until 27. The show features a 16-piece swing orchestra as well as singers, dancers and actors telling the story of one the 20th century's most iconic musicians.

For the past 15 or so years theatre mogul Bill Kenwright and his idol Tommy Steele have had supper two or three times every year. They have spoken about the past – mainly Tommy's past – as Bill can never have enough of Tommy's stories about rock 'n roll's golden era.

It was when discussing a particular favourite of theirs; the James Stewart box office smash The Glenn Miller Story, that Bill discovered that his all-encompassing love for Elvis was equal only to Tommy's adoration for Glenn Miller and his Orchestra.

Steele said: "I remember he (Miller) was on around our house all the time on the radio during the Second World War. I actually saw him when I was eight at the Albert Hall.

"My dad came home one night and told mum that he had tickets to see Glenn Miller. She was doing cartwheels, thinking she'd died and gone to heaven.

"It was the time of wartime austerity, and that wonderful sound, it's the kind of thing stays with you for the rest of your life. I've been a fan ever since."

It's going to be a-mazing

FOR the last 12 years, every Saturday night between September and Christmas has been laced with venomous comments courtesy of acid-tongued judge Craig Revel Horwood on flagship BBC TV show, Strictly Come Dancing.

His remarks, including 'a dancing disaster darling', 'spatula hands' and the wielding of his paddle with the number two on it have become legendary, yet he is the judge all the celebrities long to please. To get a nine, or if you are really, really lucky, a 10 from Craig, is the stuff dreams are made of.

He was recently at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to talk all things Sister Act the Musical, his new venture, starring X Factor winner and Bodyguard star Alexandra Burke (pictured with Craig). The dancer, choreographer, theatre and TV star, Craig's appearance belies his 51 years and his personality couldn't be further from the wicked TV persona. He is warm, welcoming, friendly, witty, handsome and charismatic; not at all the waspish caricature.

Craig, who in recent years brought revivals of Chess and Fiddler On The Roof out on tour, explained: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to reinvent Sister Act and it is going to be a more stylised production than any of my other shows.

"All the actors play the music as well, and they are all of a brilliant standard. It is alarming when you first see a whole bunch of nuns with saxophones darling," he laughed. "Then it becomes wonderful!"

Sister Act the Musical is at the Alex September 12 to 17 then Wolverhampton Grand, February 27 to March 4, 2017.

Absolute fabulous reissue of musical

WITH a star turn and a theme song by David Bowie, 1980s musical Absolute Beginners is out on Blu-ray and DVD to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

With hindsight, the colourful tribute to 1950s London looks oddly innocent in its depiction of Soho. Director Julien Temple gets maximum value from Patsy Kensit and Eddie O'Connell as the couple present at the birth of British youth culture.

Look out for Lionel Blair, Sandie Shaw, Ray Davies and even Bruno Tonioli in cameo roles. The joyful song and dance numbers make up for acting flaws and the film gets a high definition revamp for Blu-ray.

Typically tropical weekend in Brum

REGGAE music, dance, fashion and typically tropical dishes will feature at the Birmingham Caribbean Festival in Centenary Square from Friday to Sunday.

The five-year-old celebration of Caribbean culture, arts, food and drink is being held from 11am to 9pm daily, and entry is by donation.

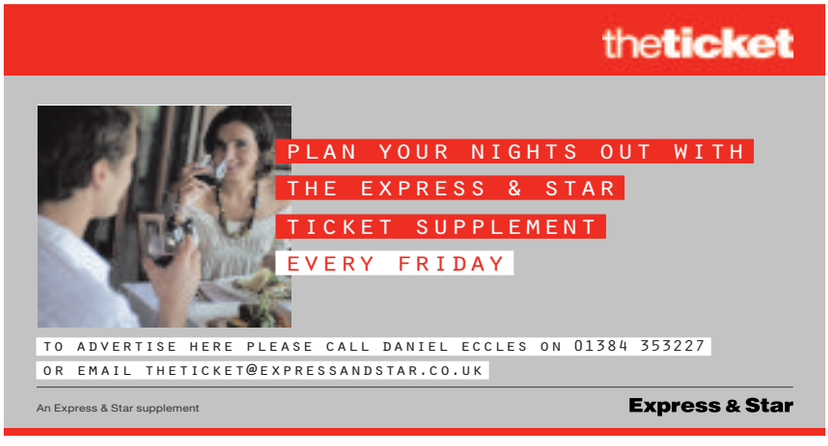
Entertainment will include the Reggae Reggae Sauce man Levi Roots (Saturday), Bob Marley tribute band Legend Live, Gabbidon from Steel Pulse, poet Ita Gooden (AKA Miss Culture Jam), Jamaican reggae singer Bushman and Dynasty Dancers. For details see birminghamcaribbeanfestival.org website.

Broadway hit has its own peer group

CULT Broadway hit Urinetown The Musical is being brought to one of Birmingham's smaller venues.

Set in a not-so-distant future where a water shortage has led to a private bathroom ban, this Tony Award winning satire on capitalism in a fee-to-pee tomorrow will be running for your convenience at The Old Joint Stock pub venue. After opening last night (Thursday) it runs until August 6 including weekend matinees at the popular Temple Row hostelry. See oldjointstock.co.uk for details.

Meanwhile, musical blockbuster Mamma Mia! continues at Birmingham Hippodrome.



Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

CHOICE

Ken Loach

Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach (BBC2, 9.10pm)

Premiere. A biography of the celebrated British director, catching up with him as he enjoys his retirement. During a career spanning more than 50 years, Ken Loach specialised in creating socially aware dramas and documentaries. Among the most successful were Cathy Come Home, Kes and The Wind that Shakes the Barley, the latter of which secured Loach a Palm d'Or award. Here, Ken revisits the production of his most celebrated movies, and shares details of projects shelved or pilloried, including a stage play cancelled during rehearsals, and a personal tragedy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. With Tom Daley, Dina Asher-Smith and Max Whitlock. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.05** Now You See It. **5.35** The Getaway Car.

6.25 BBC News.

6.35 Regional Programme.

6.45 Pointless Celebrities. Aled Davies, Tessa Sanderson, David Wilkie, Mary Peters, Jason Gardener, Marlon Devonish, Tanni Grey-Thompson and Sally Gunnell take part in an Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.

7.35 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Sonali Shah introduces the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws, and meets the "team behind the team" helping British athletes prepare for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

8.30 The Musketeers. Death strikes at the Louvre, and Treville whisks away the vulnerable young Dauphin to protect him from the machinations of Grimaud, Gaston and the Duke of Lorraine. Concludes on Monday at 9pm.

9.25 Casualty. Grace discovers the truth about Connie and Jacob while accompanying a friend to A&E, and Robyn's ex Glen reveals he has been hiding a devastating secret. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. Meanwhile, Mark delivers some heartbreaking news. (R)

11.05 Live at the Apollo. (R)

11.50 Film: Reign of Fire. (2001) Fantasy adventure.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 The Women's Football Show. (R) **7.10 Film:** City Beneath the Sea. (1970) **8.40 Film:** Hotel for Dogs. (2009) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World – Snow Monkeys. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **1.00** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Golf: Women's British Open.

6.00 Cycling: RideLondon Classique. Jill Douglas presents live coverage of the RideLondon Classique, a newly credited UCI Women's WorldTour race, as 20 teams battle it out on a 5.5km circuit on the streets of London.

7.00 Proms Extra. Katie Derham revisits Tippett's A Child of Our Time and Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending. Plus, David Owen Norris hits another Chord of the Week.

7.40 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gets to grips with summer pruning as he tackles his espaliered pear trees, while Joe Swift considers ways of putting a contemporary twist on traditional bedding plants. (R)

8.10 Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul Murton visits places connected to Robert Burns, travelling from Alloway to Mauchline, then heading for the coast and discovering the delights of Butlin's, bathing and betting.

8.40 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea's power and communications services are cut off, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. Starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)

9.10 Film: Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach. (2016) Premiere. The celebrated director shares stories about the making of his most successful films, and details of shelved projects – including one hit by a personal tragedy.

10.40 Versailles. While Louis proposes an audacious alliance with England, along with an unexpected envoy to negotiate it, Beatrice fears her secrets being revealed; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.40 Film: Sweet Sixteen. (2002) A boy resorts to all manner of schemes to rescue his mother from a life of danger on the streets of a Scottish coastal town. Drama, starring Martin Compston and Annmarie Fulton.

1.25 Film: Love Like Poison. (2010) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Wine Show. **1.40** Wild Animal Reunions. (R) **2.40** Doc Martin. (R) **3.40** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **4.10** Britain's Favourite Dogs. (R) **5.10** The Chase. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates more comical mishaps, including a builder falling through a ceiling, and a lorry driver's unfortunate encounter with a lamp-post. (R)

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Tom Daley: Diving for Gold. A profile of the diver, providing an insight into his sporting, public and personal life. The documentary looks at his decision to reveal his relationship with fiance Dustin Lance Black in 2013, his change of coaches and the gamble of learning a new dive in pursuit of Olympic gold in Rio.

9.00 1966: A Nation Remembers. Terrence Stamp narrates the story of the English football team's World Cup triumph through the eyes of those who attended matches at the tournament. Among those who recount their memories are Irish students who operated the Wembley Stadium scoreboard, and a policeman who was told to swap the Jules Rimet Trophy for a replica in the victorious team's changing room.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: Crank. (2006) An assassin is poisoned and resorts to desperate measures to keep himself alive long enough to exact a fitting revenge. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.

11.55 River Monsters. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.00 Swansea Triathlon. **7.30** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Car SOS. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Glorious Goodwood: Channel 4 Racing. Coverage from Goodwood and Newmarket. **4.15** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1 2016 German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.30 Britain's Favourite Superhero. Documentary making extensive use of interviews and clips from big-budget Hollywood blockbusters to explore the story of how superheroes – once exclusively found on the pages of comic books – found their way to the silver screen, becoming bankable cinematic icons in the process. A Channel 4 poll outlines which do-gooders the British public have taken to their hearts, and the programme charts the history of big-screen heroics from the release of the ground-breaking Superman: The Movie in 1978 through to the high-profile releases arriving in cinemas this year. films releasing this year. Along the way, viewers are given a chance to revisit Tim Burton's noir-themed iteration of Batman in the 1990s, the angst-filled antics of the X-Men and Spider-Man in the early noughties, and the far-reaching storylines of Marvel's inter-connected Avengers films. All this culminates as the poll results reveals which five heroes have captured British imaginations to become the nation's favourites.

9.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

11.30 Film: Terminator Salvation. (2009) Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Christian Bale.

1.40 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.20** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy get into a doorstep confrontation with a debtor who wants to prove her family business is bankrupt. However, when tempers flare Brian is assaulted and the agents call the police. Elsewhere, Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face evicting three properties owned by the same landlord in north London, and Brian and Delroy Anglin collect £2,000 debt owed to a vet in Kent. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. A taxi driver is murdered just hours after sending an e-mail to an old alias that Callen used when he went undercover to investigate three marines who stole $5million. (R)

8.00 NCIS. Ned Dorneget's CIA officer mother Joanna Teague helps the team tackle the Calling following her son's death. Naval crime drama, guest starring Mimi Rogers. Last in the series.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the new housemates' first full day in the Big Brother house. The celebrities may be used to staring down a lens as part of their working lives, but Big Brother's 24-hour spy-like devices are not the TV, movie and paparazzi cameras they are used to facing. It remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public and who is taking a more laid-back approach to their public incarceration.

10.00 The Funny Thing About Holidays. Johnny Vegas is joined by a selection of celebrities and comedians, who share some of their most memorable tales as they explore the many pitfalls of the traditional summer holiday.

11.05 Family Feud – My Big Family Fallout. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track **8.00** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **9.00** Beck: The Silent Scream **10.25** Imagine – Bette Midler: The Divine Miss M **11.40** Spike Milligan: Love, Light and Peace **1.10** The Kinks at the BBC **2.15** Cilla at the BBC **3.15** Top of the Pops: 1982 **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.25 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **12.30** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **3.35 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00 Film:** The Dark Knight (2008) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Dark Knight (2008) **12.00** Family Guy **1.30** American Dad! **2.25** The Cleveland Show **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.45 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.35** Jane Eyre **4.55** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Foyle's War **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.30 Pawn Stars **2.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.05 Film:** The Land That Time Forgot (1975) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** The Land That Time Forgot (1975) **5.00** Monster Carp **6.00** The Motorbike Show **7.00** The Hand of God: 30 Years On **8.00 Film:** Open Range (2003) **9.15** FYI Daily **9.20 Film:** Open Range (2003) **10.50 Film:** Unforgiven (1992) **11.50** FYI Daily **11.55 Film:** Unforgiven (1992) **1.25** Minder **2.15** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Rich Kids of Instagram **1.00** New Girl **1.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30 Film:** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.10** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Rush Hour 3 (2007) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube **2.00** First Dates **2.55** Gogglebox **3.50** 2 Broke Girls **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Captain Ron (1992) **1.00** Sister Act (1992) **3.05** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **5.05** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **6.55** Tower Heist (2011) **9.00** Predator (1987) **11.10** Bound (1996) **1.25** Alien (1979)

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Shine on – left, always apply sun lotion, and inset, Mr Darren Lewis

Since the 1970s, the rate of malignant melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, has more than quadrupled in the UK. Despite all the warnings, people still underestimate the damage that sunburn can do to their skin.

Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital's Mr Darren Lewis, consultant plastic surgeon, who is also a skin cancer specialist, offers the following advice: "With the summer holiday season now here, people need to know about the risks of spending too much time in the sun and what can be done to keep safe; be more skin aware and take extra care.

"Protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun – don't go red and don't burn. Children in particular need to be covered up or wear high factor sun cream because if you burn as a child, you are at a greater risk of developing skin cancer later on. When swimming, you need to re-apply sun screen afterwards."

Malignant melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer as it may potentially spread to other areas and can be fatal. The second, more common, type of skin cancer is non-melanoma skin cancer which includes basal cell carcinoma. This tends to be seen in older people but is sometimes found in younger people who have experienced prolonged sun exposure.

Mr Lewis goes on to say: "While we need some sun exposure to help us make vitamin D, this only amounts to 10 to 20 minutes a day from May to September and shouldn't involve sunbathing or using sunbeds. In the UK, more than 50 people die from skin cancer each year, while working outside in construction, agriculture and leisure industries. We want people to enjoy the warmer weather but stay safe, especially when on holiday and take extra precautions if you have a fair complexion. Finally as we age, our skin becomes naturally drier and so we need to moisturise more and do this regularly."

For the opportunity to meet Mr Darren Lewis and his colleague Mr Naiem Moiemen, free mini consultations are being held with these consultant plastic surgeons at the Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, on August 8, September 19 and October 12.

● To arrange a free mini consultation, contact the bookings team on 01902 793269 or go to **www.nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/wolverhampton**

With more than 38 years of serving the needs of patients, the private hospital in Wolverhampton was the first Nuffield Health hospital to be accredited by the Joint Medical Royal Colleges for its Endoscopy suite. Additionally the NHS Partners Network has named it a Top Performing Private Hospital for the last two years in succession.

CHOICE

Arthur Williams

Flying to the Ends of the Earth
(Channel 4, 8pm)
New series. Arthur Williams visits more of the world's smallest and most dangerous landing strips, beginning by exploring Siberia by helicopter. He visits a giant open-cast diamond mine five times deeper than the cliffs of Dover and a scientific expedition at the coldest place on Earth. However, when one of the helicopters crashes in thick snow, the crew are forced to abandon flying in favour of a six-hour drive along treacherous ice roads. Along the way, they meet a couple living off the grid who breed horses.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **1.55** Eat Well for Less? (R) **2.55** Songs of Praise. **3.30** Cycling: RideLondon-Surrey Classic. Live coverage of the race.

6.35 BBC News.

6.55 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker travels along the South Wales coastline and goes in search of the best cuts of meat for a beach barbecue, while Naomi Wilkinson goes punting on the river Cam and joins a member of the Wildlife Trust looking for bats. John Craven reports on the summer bulrush harvest in Suffolk, Sean Fletcher goes cycling in Pembrokeshire, and Adam Henson meets a farmer in Northern Ireland with a special way of keeping his cattle cool.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate a sketch of a dancer, which is believed to be the work of sculptor Auguste Rodin, and part of a series of drawings he made of a Cambodian dance troupe in 1906. The search for the truth takes them to Paris and Mexico and uncovers a forgery scandal that has rocked the French art establishment.

9.00 The Secret Agent. The three-part adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel comes to a conclusion. The authorities are plunged into confusion in the aftermath of the Greenwich bombing, unable to make sense of the motives behind the attack, Inspector Heat takes step to have Verloc arrested, while Winnie is devastated to learn the truth about her husband's activities and turns to Ossipon for support. They go on the run together, but it is not long before the police are hot on their trail. Starring Toby Jones, Stephen Graham and Vicky McClure. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Imagine – Sir Roderick Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now. In an interview conducted at his LA home, the singer talks to Alan Yentob about his long career.

11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.00 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.00** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Cycling: RideLondon-Surrey 100. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **1.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **1.05** Winners with Denise Lewis. **1.30** Clare Balding Meets. **2.00** Golf: Women's British Open. Day four of the Major.

6.40 Film: G-Force. (2009) A team of secret-agent guinea pigs armed with hi-tech gadgets is sent on a mission to stop an evil billionaire taking over the world. However, before the rodents can complete their mission, they end up on sale in a pet shop. Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy, with the voices of Sam Rockwell, Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz.

8.00 Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present another round of battles in the arena. An untested robot built by a cardiologist and his two sons makes a surprising impact in the arena, while a builder from Northampton wheels out an impressive looking axe-wielding robot. Plus, judge Sethu Vijayakumar discusses his work with Nasa, designing robots to explore Mars.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, as regular panelists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Sarah Willingham, Touker Suleyman and Nick Jenkins consider the profit-making potential of wearable maps, interference-free guitar cables and keys for manhole covers. However, this last scheme comes from an entrepreneur who has previously come to the edge of bankruptcy.

10.00 World Cup 1966: Alfie's Boys. David Jason presents a documentary about how Alf Ramsey put together the England football team that won the world cup in 1966. Featuring archive footage of the team. (R)

11.30 Film: Buried. (2010) A man buried alive in the Iraqi desert tries to organise a rescue before he runs out of air – but even he does not know where he is. Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.

1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories; Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Rebound. (R) **1.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Choreographer Arlene Phillips, TV garden designer Diarmuid Gavin, Countryfile presenter Helen Skelton and comedian Micky Flanagan compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by pitting their general knowledge against one of the show's resident trivia experts. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

8.00 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Premiership Rugby 7s Highlights. Action from the group matches, held at the Arms Park, Sandy Park, Franklin's Gardens and Kingston Park, and featured all 12 English top-flight clubs and four Welsh franchises.

12.00 River Monsters. Reports of a face-eating creature in a remote part of Bolivia. Last in the series. (R) **12.25** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Croft. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. Both races from Thruxton in Hampshire. **4.45** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. (R) **6.40** Shipping Wars. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30 Film:** A Goofy Movie. (1995) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Farmer. **2.00 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **3.40** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help prospective buyers in Cardiff, including Jo and Steve, who are relocating from Bristol to cut down on Jo's commute to work. (R) **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Laura Hamilton offers advice to Dee and Maurice Evans, who have a budget of £200,000 to buy a holiday home close to the theme parks in South Orlando, Florida. **5.45** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Formula 1 2016 German Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents the best of the action from the 12th round of the season, which was held at the Hockenheimring.

8.00 Flying to the Ends of the Earth. New series. Arthur Williams explores Siberia by helicopter, but when one of the aircraft crashes in deep snow, the crew is faced with a six-hour drive along treacherous ice roads.

9.00 Film: The Imitation Game. (2014) Premiere. Biopic of mathematician Alan Turing, whose work during the Second World War translated seemingly unbreakable Nazi codes as well as pioneering the development of computer technology. In the years following the war, his life would be destroyed as his homosexuality was discovered, leaving him facing criminal charges. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley and Charles Dance.

11.10 Friday Night Dinner. Dad's annual hinge oiling evening arrives, but when he spills his oil on Mum's carpet, it's a race against time to clean it up before she finds out. Simon Bird stars. (R)

11.45 Film: Date Night. (2010) A married couple's romantic evening takes a dangerous turn when a case of mistaken identity leaves them on the run from gangsters. Comedy, starring Tina Fey.

1.20 The World's Weirdest Weather. (R) **2.15** Walking the Himalayas. (R) **3.10** Cleopatra's Lost Tomb. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.55** Pets. (R) **7.00** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Shimmer and Shine. **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55 Film:** Beverly Hills Ninja. (1997) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30 Film:** Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **3.20 Film:** The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan.

6.00 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) God tires of a down-on-his-luck reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of ultimate responsibility. The newsman falls in love with his extraordinary abilities – but a never-ending stream of incoming prayers and his ambitious attempt to please everyone soon prove there is more to the job than meets the eye. Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 Now That's Funny! Featuring dancing animals, urban skiing and ways to cope with the heat.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 Ultimate Celebrity Power Couples 2016. Celebrating the world's biggest celebrity couples of 2016, with a definitive countdown based on the stars' reported wealth, media impact and political muscle. (R)

11.55 Family Secrets & Lies. People involved in feuds with their nearest and dearest, including a woman who has been cut off from most of her family since she underwent gender-reassignment surgery. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of Great British Castles. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: Berlioz Romeo and Juliet **9.00** Generation '66 **10.00** Cathy Come Home **11.20** Rich Hall's Inventing the Indians **12.50** Yellowstone **1.50** Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army **2.50** Generation '66 **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.50 Take Me Out **1.00** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **3.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **5.55 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **7.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **8.30** FYI Daily **8.35 Film:** Twilight (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.40 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **3.50 Film:** The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **5.55** Doc Martin **8.00** The Booze Cruise 2: The Treasure Hunt **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **2.50** May the Best House Win **4.35** On the Buses **5.25** Movies Now **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
6.00 Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s Highlights **9.00** 1966: A Nation Remembers **10.00 Film:** Tremors (1989) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Tremors (1989) **12.05 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00 Film:** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.00** Rich Kids of Instagram **12.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Containment **2.10** Rude Tube **3.05** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **1.00** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **4.45** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **7.15** Jingle All the Way (1996) **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) Prison thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.15** Law Abiding Citizen (2009) **1.25** Family Business (1989) **3.45** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Secrets In the Attic, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenage girl moves into an old house that her mother has inherited and discovers a youth in the attic, where he has been hiding out for months. She then finds out that he has been accused of murder and has to decide whether he can be trusted. Thriller, starring Abbie Cobb and Max Lloyd-Jones. (2016)

TUESDAY
Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.30pm
Rival figure skaters bury the hatchet after they discover a loophole enabling them to compete in the world championships as a same-sex pair. Comedy, with Will Ferrell and Jon Heder. (2007)

WEDNESDAY
In the Electric Mist, BBC1, 11.15pm
A recovering alcoholic detective investigates the discovery of a body in a swamp, where he witnessed a murder as a boy. As he sets out to prove a local gangster is involved in a more recent killing, he begins having visions of ghostly Confederate soldiers. Mystery based on James Lee Burke's novel, starring Tommy Lee Jones and John Goodman. (2009)

Public Enemies, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
The Devil's Teardrop, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A serial killer terrorises Washington DC, with a ransom note the only clue to his identity. A handwriting analyst agrees to help the FBI with their investigation, but also has to deal with fighting his ex-wife for custody of their children. Crime drama, starring Tom Everett Scott and Natasha Henstridge. (2010)

FRIDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

Clare gives a preview as the games commence

There's no doubt that the Olympic Games are the world's biggest sporting event.

In Rio this year will be more than 10,500 competitors from 207 nations, and there will be thousands more team officials, media representatives, security personnel and volunteers flocking to the city.

And that's before we even mention the spectators…

Many will have applied for tickets, but millions more will watch at home – a global audience of around two billion is expected to tune in.

Four years ago, it was estimated that 90 per cent of the British population watched coverage of some kind of the London games, which were a huge success. It's unlikely that the same numbers will be present again -- but there are those die-hard sports fans who will still be keen to follow British athletes as they take to the road, track, field or pool.

Unfortunately, the build-up to Rio has been somewhat marred by various controversies, including host nation Brazil's political instability and economic crisis, security concerns, sanitation and, of course, zika. The virus has already prompted several sportspeople to pull out, including tennis stars Milos Raonic (who was runner-up at this year's Wimbledon to Andy Murray) and Tomas Berdych, golfers Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, and cyclist Tejay van Garderen.

Nevertheless, British fans are expecting big things from their team, particularly after the heroics displayed four years ago.

"London 2012 saw the likes of Jessica Ennis, Mo Farah, Greg Rutherford, Nicola Adams and the Brownlee brothers become household names, as the nation took them to their hearts following their monumental sporting success on home turf," says one of the BBC's key presenters, Clare Balding, whose own star rose after her acclaimed appearances at the Games.

"All eyes will be on them again this summer, while track cyclist Laura Trott and dressage star Charlotte Dujardin are vying to become the most decorated British female Olympians in history."

But she's also quick to point out that potential gold medal-winners such as swimmer Adam Peaty, boxer Joe Joyce, diver Jack Laugher and athletes Dina Asher-Smith and Katarina Johnson-Thompson also have the potential to make their mark.

The BBC is certainly throwing its weight behind its coverage of Rio. It will broadcast more than 3,000 hours of the games across all BBC platforms, and is launching a new app to help fans catch up with the latest action.

Director of BBC Sport, Barbara Slater, says: "The BBC's coverage of London 2012 was the most watched TV event in UK broadcasting history and we are committed to bringing the same high quality, in-depth coverage to Rio 2016.

"The incredible offering across all our platforms will deliver every moment of the Games through a truly interactive, personalised experience."

Coverage begins tonight as Clare Balding presents a preview, which is followed at 11.40pm by the opening ceremony from the Maracana.

Clare Balding presents Rio 2016, Friday, BBC1, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Brief Encounters
ITV, 9pm
Dawn and Russell's wedding reception at the pub is the scene for a number of confrontations, heart-to-hearts and surprises. Terry storms out after an argument with Steph, while the bride's father Len turns up unannounced but is he there to make amends or cause trouble? Later, Pauline bumps into Johnny and tells him untruths about Steph's feelings for him as she desperately tries to protect herself and Brian. Drama, starring Penelope Wilton, Sophie Rundle, Angela Griffin and Sharon Rooney.

TUESDAY
Borderline
Channel 5, 10pm
Immigration is currently an even more emotive subject than usual, but Channel 5 is here to show us that it can also be a laughing matter with its new series Borderline, a mock-documentary following the UK Border Force. If the premise wasn't risky enough, the channel isn't playing safe with the format either – like its acclaimed drama Suspects, which returns for a new run this week, the basic plot elements of Borderline are scripted, but the cast improvises the dialogue.

WEDNESDAY
Gogglebox: Brexit Special
Channel 4, 9pm
Social media, pubs, workplaces, even some playgrounds – for the past few weeks, they've all hosted impassioned debates about Britain's decision to leave the EU. But while some of us may now know more than we ever wished to about the political beliefs of our friends, families and co-workers, what do the Goggleboxers make of it all? In this special one-off episode, the regular households will comment on everything from Brexit to our new Prime Minister Theresa May (and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson).

A Granny's Guide to the Modern World
Channel 4, 10.35pm
New series. Barry Humphries and a team of senior investigative reporters provide an outsider's perspective of life in 2016, through reports, hidden camera experiments and comedy sketches. The results provide a fresh take on the mechanics of British society and culture, and a comedic look at the modern world's attitude to the country's burgeoning OAP population.

THURSDAY
Mo Farah: Race of His Life
BBC1, 9pm
A profile of the distance-running star, who won gold at both the 5,000m and 10,000m in the 2012 London Olympics. Farah discusses his personal and sporting life, and meets up with his twin brother in the small African country of Djibouti where he spent his early childhood. He also discusses allegations about his coach and demonstrates how hard he pushes himself at training camps in Ethiopia, Arizona and France. With contributions from Usain Bolt and Sebastian Coe.

Mo Farah: Race of His Life, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

The Gift of Hearing
BBC2, 11.05pm
Lauren Laverne narrates the story of Jo Milne, the Tyneside woman who became an internet sensation when a home video of her hearing for the first time after receiving implants surfaced on the web.

FRIDAY
Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year
Channel 4, 8pm
Architect, presenter, lecturer and writer George Clarke's mission to find Britain's 2016 Shed of the Year continues as he and his fellow judges turn their attention to the Eco and Unexpected categories. Eco includes a mud hut in Norfolk and a shed on wheels, while featuring in the new Unexpected category is a shed located on a flood plain designed to rise up with whatever water levels surround it. There is also an allegedly haunted shed, so viewers might wish to make sure they are not alone before tuning in.

Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart
BBC2, 9pm
New series. The course of the seasons, beginning with spring, which sees the hills on fire on fire as the annual muir-burn takes place in the Cairngorms. As the flames rise, an osprey returns to a valley near Loch Ness, with its movement captured in super slow-motion at 800 frames per second. Red squirrels and roe deer prepare for the breeding season, while a cataclysmic downpour has major consequences for a family of dippers, whose youngsters are forced to fledge early before the nest is swept away. Narrated by Ewan McGregor.

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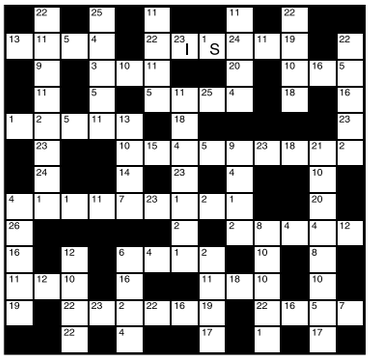
BRAIN GYM No.388

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1 S	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 I
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	M	P	Q	D	S	L	A	T	X	H	W	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	C	G	N	Z	V	O	U	B	F	R	E	Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

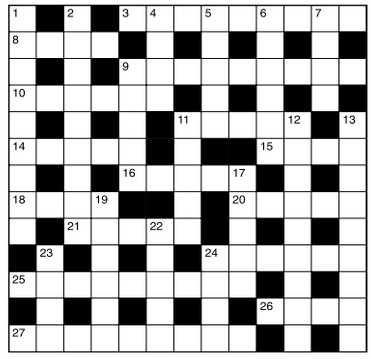
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. They're not what they seem in sport, so I'm upset (9)
8. Part of an intermediate academic period (4)
9 & 16Ac. Appears as the target for the marksman does (5,4,5)
10. More insensitive to mathematical quantity (6)
11. Entitled me to come in and change (5)
14. This will stick cheap jewellery (5)
15. When accompanied by fire, this produces methane (4)
16. See 9 Across
18. Stake boat (4)
20. This can be measured to a certain degree (5)
21. The whole taken together is coarse (5)
24. Affliction coming from hooligans or rowdies (6)
25. Declaration of intent is clear and nothing more (9)
26. Double commendation on return (4)
27. It lists the events for professional lightweight (9)

Down

1. Duct underneath spectators' seating is a water outlet (5-4)
2. Showing hopeful signs of taking the pledge (9)
4. To secure the boat you need space on return (4)
5. Ring Margaret and then get a letter (5)
6. Closely followed a description of most animals (6)
7. Assess the speed (4)
9. The sequence, we hear, for a Roman goddess (5)
11. Spiced drink for North African potentate (5)
12. Ground/sea arrangement can be full of hazards (9)
13. Hurry with water supply for wild blue flower (9)
17. Thanks to a cry of disapproval, it's not allowed (5)
19. Carrying out judicial work is annoying (6)
22. Italian city is brown when burnt, we hear! (5)
23. Sounds like one fruit, but it's two (4)
24. Check the flower-holder (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Competent (9)
8. Spike (4)
9. Chastise (9)
10. Happens (6)
11. Dreads (5)
14. Staggers (5)
15. Resound (4)
16. Shatter (5)
18. Fashionable (4)
20. Fruit (5)
21. List (5)
24. Severe (6)
25. Unimportant person (9)
26. Great (4)
27. Persevered (9)

Down

1. Wrong (9)
2. Disgrace (9)
4. Poisonous tree (4)
5. Supple (5)
6. Shape (6)
7. Consumes (4)
9. Annoyed (5)
11. Fire (5)
12. Doubting (9)
13. Anticipate (9)
17. Rash (5)
19. Fondle (6)
22. Water-lily (5)
23. Centre (4)
24. Inflamed eyelid (4)

Sudoku

			3		5			
3				1				2
	2		8		9		4	
9	8						3	1
		4		3		7		
7	3						5	6
	6		5		2		1	
2				6				8
			4		7			

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	6	1	3	5	4	2	7
5	2	1	4	7	9	3	6	8
7	3	4	8	6	2	9	1	5
9	1	2	3	4	7	8	5	6
4	6	5	2	9	8	1	7	3
3	7	8	6	5	1	2	9	4
6	5	3	9	1	4	7	8	2
2	4	9	7	8	6	5	3	1
1	8	7	5	2	3	6	4	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Feigned; 7 Unbar; 9 Sty; 10 Preaching; 12 Furthermore; 15 Presumptive; 17 Mismanage; 19 Two; 21 Celia; 22 Waisted. Down: 1 Meats; 2 Ego; 3 Heir; 4 On the move; 5 Banners; 8 Talent; 11 Nursemaid; 13 Taming; 14 Praises; 16 Sweet; 18 Gear; 20 Asp. QUICK - Across: 6 Acquire; 7 Grope; 9 Fit; 10 Rewarding; 12 Calculation; 15 Declaration; 17 Countless; 19 Don; 21 Heart; 22 Cranium. Down: 1 Acrid; 2 Run; 3 Free; 4 Erudition; 5 Sponsor; 8 Varlet; 11 Gallantry; 13 Circle; 14 Recover; 16 Vogue; 18 Sure; 20 End.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of which Christian group is a Latter-day Saint a member?
2. Who is the editor of The Times newspaper?
3. To which family of birds does the roadrunner belong?
4. Who captained the Australian side in the 2005 Ashes series?
5. What is the technical name for nettle rash?
6. What is the capital of the Ukraine?
7. What type of flower is a michaelmas daisy?
8. During which revolution was the Reign of Terror?
9. Which animal was once called a foul marten?
10. What flavour does the liqueur curacao have?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Celtic; 2 Queen; 3 Edward VIII; 4 H Rider Haggard; 5 Oxygen; 6 Nagasaki; 7 White blood cell or corpuscle; 8 Diego Maradona; 9 Biscayne Bay; 10 Ben Crenshaw.

Niner: MAGNITUDE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

254416 gives an implement,
972416 gives a tool,
938 gives a weapon.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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5* was such a relaxing environment for my dogs, Dolly and Oscar! Thanks
Kerry-Ann Wolohan (Facebook)

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Beverley Smith (Facebook)

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

Mako the most of it – the hypercoaster is 200ft high and reaches speeds of 73mph

Eye of the tiger – get close to wildlife

Flipping fantastic – swim with dolphins at Discovery Cove

Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails

Getting hyper over the sheer size and height of these rollercoasters

EVERYTHING is bigger in America. From the huge family Jeeps on the roads to the humongous portion sizes in restaurants not to mention the massive out-of-town shopping malls.

So, it's no surprise that the same goes for the country's rollercoasters, much to the delight of thrillseekers.

Except they aren't just the best coasters in the world, some are also the biggest, known as hypercoasters. The definition of a hypercoaster is any rollercoaster with a height or drop of more than 200ft.

The latest hypercoaster to be built in The States is Mako, named after the species of shark, at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. Myself, along with a group of 15 hardened coaster riders from the UK and Ireland, ventured across the Atlantic to check out

Orlando – by Alex Ross

the new ride. Mako opened last month and is just one of many rides at SeaWorld. It's huge. Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails can be seen on the approach. And the screams can heard from a distance too.

I got a sneaky first ride on it, but nothing could have prepared me for this. Scaling up 200ft, before plummeting and reaching speeds of 73mph, it was exhilarating from start to finish. The only disappointment was my inability to keep my cool.

A video, later kindly circulated online, showed me screaming like a six-year-old girl, not a 32-year-old man. Not great for my street cred.

If you're not a fan of rollercoasters, there are lots of other less daring things to do. Whether it be killer whale displays or visiting a penguin's home you can keep your feet firmly on the ground. And for those wanting a break from the action, there are plenty of cafés and bars where you can refuel.

During our stay we were based at the Hilton in Orlando, just a stone's throw from most of the city's attractions, shopping malls and restaurants.

Picturesque

Orlando is the country's most popular tourist destination with its theme parks drawing in visitors from both home and abroad. But in contrast to the screams and roars from the roller coasters, the state is quite green and picturesque.

Its wealth of attractions means it's a great family destination with so much to do to keep both children and adults entertained day and night. And when it comes to food, you'll be spoilt for choice.

The next theme park we went to took us much closer to nature. At Discovery Cove you can swim with dolphins or snorkel in water filled with tropical fish.

For me, swimming with the dolphins was a highlight. Watching them from boats or on television, I've always been fascinated but it was something else to touch them and be carried by them across the waves.

The next day we took the bus to Tampa Bay and Busch Gardens. We were too early for the opening of Cobra's Curse, although the park managers gave us a tour. Even the queue area, which featured live snakes, was scary. But there was still plenty of other things to do. The park has 12,000 animals and there was a chance to see more of them with a safari.

Our final stop was water park Aquatica where the highlight was a vertical drop slide.

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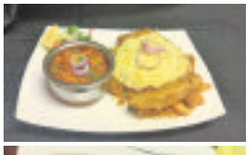
At The Spice Village Bangladeshi Fusion Cuisine we have a great variety on our menu which our chefs have created to give our customers a experience like no other.



Each dish has an individual taste, authentic in our Bangladeshi style of cooking. The restaurant has undergone a refurbishment giving a contemporary look and a homely atmosphere for all our customers.

We specialise in exclusive seafood fusion specials as well as chef's special dishes such as our top sellers Taza Chingri Takari, Malai Jhinga, Murgh Mossolni and many more.

At Spice Village we always provide the very best of service to all our customers. We seek to always please customers from the point of greeting, when taking orders and when serving food with our unique style of presentation. At Spice Village we always go out of our way to give excellent customer service. We cater for all needs, taste and special requirements to all our customers.

We provide a takeaway service, collection service and our very popular outside catering service, which has grown over the past year.

Staff here at the Spice Village are very helpful and experienced in doing their very best for all customers.

We would like to say to all our customers who have been attending the Spice Village over the years and those who are new to the Spice Village a very big thank you. For those who are a regular at Spice Village and for those who are looking to visit us for the first time Spice Village are celebrating their anniversary with a special two for one special on mains starting on July 31st to August 4th. We hope you all can enjoy this special occasion with us and attend Spice Village on this special anniversary of 10 years.

We are unlicensed and customers are allowed to bring their own drinks. Please book to avoid any disappointment.

Cleaning pond pump filters on to-do list

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Take cuttings of new shoots of camellias, rooting them in a gritty compost in a covered propagator.
2. Clean pond pump filters to ensure they don't get clogged up with algae.
3. Harvest Japanese onions planted last autumn.
4. Thin out heavy crops of apples, picking off small, damaged fruits to give the rest more room.
5. Continue to pick sweet peas for cut flowers indoors or remove dead seed heads to ensure that plants continue to flower.
6. Feed established wisteria with a high potash liquid feed to promote flowering.
7. Layer non-flowering side shoots of carnations to raise new plants.
8. Water blue hydrangeas with a solution of colourant to ensure blue varieties remain blue in future and prompt pink ones to turn blue.
9. Top up levels of ponds and water features as water evaporates.
10. Pick ripe tomatoes as they form and remove leaves below the lowest truss to improve air circulation.
11. Pick lettuce, cutting every alternate one in a row to leave others more space to develop.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT -

Autumn and winter salads

YOU may now be reaping the rewards of your summer leaves from successional sowings, but there's still time to plant some salads to enjoy later on in the season.

Rocket and lamb's lettuce can still be sown in most situations, while winter purslane prefers lighter soil. Sow seeds thinly in drills around 23cm (9in) apart. These leaves don't need to be thinned out. Just cut them as you need them and they will come again. Oriental veg such as Chinese radish, pak choi and mizuna can also be added to the mix or grown as ornamental plants in borders, sowing in rows 30cm (1ft) apart. These can be thinned to 15-30cm (6-12 inches) between plants.

Great British Pea Week

LAUNCHED by the Yes Peas! campaign on behalf of British pea growers and freezers, Great British Pea Week (July 11-17) was the first annual awareness week dedicated to peas, is giving everyone a reason to celebrate peas this harvesting season.

The UK is the largest producer and consumer of frozen peas in Europe and on average, everyone in Britain eats nearly 9,000 peas per year.

This July, approximately 700 pea growers will harvest 2 billion portions of peas to feed Britain for the year.

The harvesting process is a military operation and lasts an average of six to eight weeks. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, harvesting machines, known as viners, work in unison to harvest shell and transport the peas from field to frozen as quickly as possible – the majority in just 150 minutes.

Versatile and nutritious, frozen peas are a popular freezer essential and the Yes Peas! campaign is asking everyone to get involved this Great British Pea Week and get cooking with peas.

Try this recipe from TV chef and Yes Peas! ambassador, Rachel Green:

Pea, Tuna & White Bean Salad With Lemon Dressing

Ingredients
400g frozen peas
425g can tuna, drained
1/2 red onion, peeled and finely diced
440g can of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
3 tbsp roughly chopped flat leaf parsley
2 tbsp capers
1 cucumber, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunky batons
150g spinach leaves, blanched
Juice of 2 lemons
2 tbsp olive oil
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to season

Method
Cook the peas in slightly salted boiling water for two minutes and refresh under cold water. Place the peas, tuna, onion, beans, parsley, capers, cucumber and spinach in a bowl and turn gently.

Mix the lemon juice and olive oil together in a bowl and season with sea salt and black pepper. Toss salad in the lemon dressing.

Agapanthus, or African lily, has large circular blue or white flower heads

A must-have for borders with big, bright flowers

BEST OF THE BUNCH

Agapanthus

THE African lily is a must-have perennial for sunny gardens, its large globes of blue or white flowers providing both colour and architectural value in borders and pots.

Some of the brightest and biggest are least hardy, so go to a reputable supplier or specialist nursery who may be able to offer hardier and newer hybrids.

After flowering, the heavy circular seedheads remain and are excellent for cutting and using in dried arrangements indoors. Agapanthus prefer sunny, sheltered spots and in pots they don't like to have too much space. In borders, however, don't let them be crowded in and shaded by other plants and make sure they're not too wet or cold in winter.

Good varieties include Headbourne hybrids, which provide dazzling displays in late summer, or Agapanthus campanulatus, which are best for permanent border planting. Look for the deep blue 'Cobalt Blue' or A. 'Polar Ice', one of the best white forms.

Pelargoniums

THESE are among the most drought-tolerant of summer bedding plants, adding colour and texture to containers and at the front of borders.

They used to be known as geraniums as their seed capsules are similar to those of our native hardy geraniums, but the name still sticks.

There are more than 200 species, but the most common are zonal perlagoniums, the ones with leaves like opened fans.

There are also 'uniques', which bear masses of small flowers and scented foliage, while regal pelargoniums are among the earliest to flower and many produce rich colours including deep burgundies and plums.

Ivy-leaved types are trailing, so ideal for hanging baskets and containers. The beauty about these plants is that they hardly need watering - in fact most problems occur through over-watering - and if its roots become constricted in the pot it should flower profusely. Good varieties include 'Voodoo', a unique variety with wine red flowers with black centres, and 'Attar of Roses', a light pink type valued for its rose-scented foliage.

Off on holiday? Don't let garden go to pot

By Hannah Stephenson

GOING on holiday this summer? Don't let your garden go to pot in your absence. This week we're giving top tips on how to make sure it still looks good after two weeks away

If you're away for a fortnight in the summer holidays and don't want to return to bedraggled borders, dried-out pots and a lawn which looks like straw, take action now.

BEFORE YOU GO

Weed, mow and water. Make sure beds and borders are tidy, weeded and well watered. Deadhead and cut back perennials which have finished flowering. If you have annuals in borders, deadhead them and even pick off emerging flowers to conserve the plants' energy for when you return. They may reward you with fresh blooms which come through in your absence. Mow the lawn, leaving the clippings on it which will help conserve moisture should it be really dry when you're away. Give containers and baskets a really good water and feed before you leave.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Family, friends and neighbours: Call on kindly neighbours, friends or family who live nearby to maintain your garden in your absence. Leave clear instructions about watering and deadheading, and get them to harvest any ripening fruit and veg from your allotment or vegetable patch for their own use. That way it won't go to seed. They could even freeze what they don't use.

Automatic watering: There are many automatic irrigation systems on the market which can be timed to go on and off as you wish. More sophisticated models are activated depending on the dryness of the soil while others, such as Hozelock's Cloud Controller, this year's RHS Chelsea Garden Product of the Year, can be operated from your mobile phone.

Shade pots: If you have a collection of patio pots, give them a really good soaking just before you go away and put them all together in a sheltered, shady spot which is open to the elements (including rain). Clustering them should help conserve moisture, reduce evaporation and make it easier for friends or neighbours to water. Stand the pots in saucers or trays which act as a reservoir and hold some of the excess water as it drains.

Hanging baskets: These can need watering twice a day in the height of summer and if you don't have a neighbour to do it, you'll have your work cut out to keep them looking good. Take down the basket and dig a depression in the soil in a shady border that you can sink the basket in. Water and feed the basket, ensuring the soil underneath is thoroughly soaked too and give your basket plants a good trim before you go.

Other watering solutions: If you don't have an automatic watering system or a neighbour to take care of your patio pots, create your own self-watering system by placing a bucket of water on bricks and surrounding it with your pots, which should be at a lower level than the bucket. Cut out strips of capillary matting (available from garden centres and DIY stores) to create a wick for each pot, placing one end of the matting in the bucket and training it down and inserting the other end into the compost, which should keep it moist when you're away.

Drought-tolerant plants: There are plenty of colourful plants which will survive your two-week absence. Geraniums, cosmos, escholzia (Californian poppy), gazania, osteospermum and nicotiana should all be okay.

A wider list of drought-tolerant plants is available from the Royal Horticultural Society at www.rhs.org.uk

Make sure you mow the lawn before going on holiday and leave the clippings on it to help retain moisture

If neighbours are helping, leave clear instructions for watering

Deadhead your flowers before you go away

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

A substantial drop in price of property

Set between the countryside and amenities of Swindon village, Holloway House, 6 The Holloway, has now been reduced in price by £20,000 to £266,950.

In a sought-after location with a primary school and coach transport to the senior Edge Cliff School in Kinver, it has been extended and boasts four bedrooms.

There is a generous office or studio which is ideal for the use of a business.

The large patio area and the rear of the garden extends beyond, and enjoys seclusion.

To the front is a drive/parking and potential for further space. The garage is accessed at the side. It is on a corner position and has delightful rear gardens but also includes a separate office/studio.

Outside is a second garden currently used for vegetables and plants.

SWINDON £269,950

KEY FEATURES

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Of equal interest to both Developers and owner/occupiers - a simple and straight-forward freehold development opportunity to create a high quality separate dwelling in a prime area with a new vehicular access. The existing single storey "link", clearly visible in the main photograph, is to be demolished as part of the scheme, therefore creating a fully detached property and Full, current, Planning Consent was recently granted by Wyre Forest District Council on 9 March, 2016 under application no. 15/0661/FULL. This approval includes a single storey rear extension to the new property but, furthermore, we also understand that the new purchaser will also enjoy additional Permitted Development Rights for further enlargement still to suit individual needs! An incredibly rare opportunity in an acutely sought after and highly accessible location, near to Chaddesley Corbett with quick access to M5/M42 Motorway links.

Guide Price £135,000 - £175,000

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Old Baskerville House, Barbourne Road, Worcester WR1 1RU

Old Baskerville House is a fine Grade II Listed property, on a grand scale, currently consisting of 11 FLATS in good level grounds extending to about 0.75 of an acre with masses of parking. There is also Planning Permission for two further flats via conversion of existing garaging. Old Baskerville House currently commands a rental income of £55,380 per annum when fully let on Assured Shorthold Tenancies. Factoring in further value/income from the two additional proposed dwellings, then here is a highly profitable opportunity! External Area approximately 7,160 sq.ft. excluding the garage block.

Guide Price £800,000 - £1,000,000

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Melbury House, Charlton Ln, Torton, Hartlebury

Un-polished gem" for sale under the hammer to close an Estate! - a captivating non-listed stone built detached country residence of real distinction with BIG potential set some 100ft back from the lane-side and sitting on ABOUT 2.6 ACRES of good level grounds with large paddock. Here is the perfect chance for your very own "grand design" in a prime rural setting surrounded by open Greenbelt countryside and yet with swift and very simple access to Worcester City and the M5. EPC E

Guide Price £400,000 - £500,000

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Guide Price £110,000 - £120,000

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59 Highfield Road, Kidderminster DY10 2TJ

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Mazda adds autumn colour with special edition Mazda2 Red

By James Parker

It's time to see red this September, as Mazda's stylish and sophisticated supermini range is enhanced with the launch of the Mazda2 Red Edition.

With high levels of standard specification, eye-catching styling enhancements and a striking cabin, the Red Edition's standout appearance complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions.

Offered with a choice of free-of-charge Snowflake White Pearlescent or Black Mica paint, the Red Edition's youthful design cues include Soul Red accents on the wing mirror covers, rear spoiler and rear underskirt, while the bespoke look can be further heightened with optional £300 Dark Gunmetal 15" alloy wheels.

Inside, the redden theme continues with red cloth seat trim, red knee pad inserts and red door trim inserts, while a red and white décor panel on the dash adds a large sweep of colour across the dash.

In dealerships from September 1 and limited to just 400 cars, the Red Edition's small volumes make it an exclusive supermini choice that stands out from the crowd.

The Red edition's standout looks complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions

However, based on the 90ps SE-L Nav, the Red Edition shares the same core values of driving fun, sharp looks, quality, safety and affordability found across the entire Mazda2 range.

Featuring the signature wing front grille and predatory headlamp styling which instantly identify it as a Mazda, the Mazda2 supermini features advanced chassis architecture, while its dynamic, muscular, cab-rearward proportions incorporate a long wheelbase with small overhangs to maximise interior space.

On-board, front shoulder and rear knee room is complemented by excellent seat comfort, while coherent instrumentation and switchgear is matched to class-leading ergonomics.

The 7-inch touch-screen display combines with Mazda's rotary Multimedia Commander to create an enhanced human-machine interface (HMI) offering extremely safe, intuitive interactivity and infotainment control.

Powered by the efficient 90ps SKYACTIV-G petrol engine, the Red Edition offers customers the ideal balance of lively, agile performance and highly-competitive fuel economy, plus with CO2 emissions of just 105g/km low-running costs are a given.

Stylish

"Thanks to its combination of fun-to-drive handling, stylish looks and generous equipment, the Mazda2 is already winning over UK supermini buyers and our latest special edition model offers stand-out looks and a bold cabin for those customers who want to make a statement with their car," said Peter Allibon, sales director of Mazda Motors UK.

"With free-of-charge metallic paint and its striking styling enhancements, the Mazda2 Red Edition is a colourful addition to the Mazda2 range, that I'm sure will be popular with younger buyers."

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DRIVETIME

Stand out with style in Note

Striking contemporary design, a high standard specification and a touch of premium quality seamlessly blend together on a new special version of the Nissan Note – the Black Edition, priced from £14,415.

The most eye-catching enhancement is to the exterior of the popular compact (B-segment) hatchback. The addition of a Dynamic Styling Pack means sporty body-coloured bumpers front and rear, side skirts and black bezel headlights. A performance-oriented black spoiler at the top of the hatchback further enhances the look.

Other upgrades include 16-inch alloy wheels, smart new door handles and mirror covers, plus gloss inserts around the daytime running lights. There is a new high quality finish to the B and C-pillars, which frame the rear passenger door windows. As the car's name implies, all these enhancements are finished in premium black.

The interior of the Note Black Edition has also been given a significant makeover. The centre console is finished in gloss black, with a black gear shift knob close by. Above, the black headliner adds a stand-out and sophisticated look. Electric rear windows are included and the NissanConnect touch-screen infotainment system is also available as an option.

The Nissan Note Black Edition comes in two striking body colours – a pearlescent Storm White or a metallic Pearl Black – and is based on the popular Acenta mid-grade trim level. That means air conditioning, a multi-function leather steering wheel and Bluetooth connectivity with audio streaming included on every car.

They are in addition to the Note's most appealing features – its spacious interior and modern, efficient engines. Black Edition models are available with a choice of two powerplants from the Note range – the 1.5-litre dCi 90 manual and 1.2-litre 80 manual.

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VW T4 CAMPER VAN 2.4. LWB. P reg. 3/4 rock and roll bed. Smev touring burner and sink. Blackout blinds. Leisure battery. 12-240 volt split charging system. Professionally converted. FSH. MoT'd. With awning.
£6,950 ono.
07828 678711.

MUST BE SEEN

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

CARAVAN WANTED cash on pick up asap. Call me on 07717 090817.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
** Extra Sale Date **
Sunday 31st July
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

STEVE REINER Classical Guitar, with hard case, great quality, excellent condition. £700 ono. 07802 620770 or 01902 661435.

sports & leisure

FULL SIZE snooker table with slate bed, £300. Mahogany bar, ideal for games room, £120. Both excellent condition. 0121 3535015.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

TREADMILL Pro-Fitness. Electric. Was £200 new. 2 yrs old. Rare use. £100 ono. Must dismantle & collect. Stourbridge. 01384 371505.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Every month. Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 31st July 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Scrap Gold ,Jewellery. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

collectables & memorabilia

WANTED Any memorabilia associated with Enoch Powell or Ruberry Owen. Telephone 01666 837747.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

furniture

CIRCULAR 1.1M solid oak dining table (extendable 1.4m), £80. Four dining chairs, very good condition, wood, £100. 01299 823321.

ELECTRIC reclining chair, lime green dralon, excellent condition, £200. 01384 877153.

SUTCLIFFE DISPLAY UNIT, Teak, 2 door, with centre drawer, 74insH x 32insW x 18 1/2insD, £250. 01902 664315.

in your garden

STONE PATIO SET, table, bench and stools, all carved, £400 ono. Telephone 01746 764839 or 07885 699589.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard Checkatrade.com

double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07496 922324.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

external rendering / insulation

EXTERIOR RENDERING, full houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Tidy Fencing
Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners
Established 2001
We are fully insured
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.
SPECIAL RATES available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

Shed refelts now available!
01384 620 072
07908 478 962

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
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ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED
WASTE LICENCE
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painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
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plans prepared

LEIGHTON BEST Building plans drawn and submitted. Competitive rates. Call 07982 843861.

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home and Garden Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience. Call Mark or Sara on 07741 770897.

removals

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates,
FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

MR BEE REMOVALS
FROM £20 P/H
MEN WITH VANS FOR REMOVALS.
SINGLE ITEMS, HOUSES, FLATS, OFFICES & CLEARANCE.
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mrbeeremovals@hotmail.co.uk
www.mrbeeremovals.co.uk

Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
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clean & repair service.
House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

T L Fowkes Roofing & Building Solutions
FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST
call or email
07896 334 946
t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk
Experts in all roofing and building aspects Including:
• Flat roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing
• uPVC and all major building works

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel pup, 11wks, KC reg, health checked, vaccinated, chipped, wormed, male,black, white chest markings. £650. 07974 749908.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING / sitting service. W-ton. Cat feeding / toileting. OAP rates. 07974 913703

KC ASSURED BREEDERS

Wanted Miniature Dachshund, dog or bitch, 1-5 years. Good home waiting.

07935 244905.

LOST
Grey male cat with some white markings, wearing blue collar with diamonds and name barrel. Escaped from pet carrier whilst on the way to be neutered at Hills Vets, Walsall.
Last seen in Pursehouse Street but has recently been rescued and is still very scared of humans.
Any sights please ring
07847 360784
to get him back in his loving new home.

WORKING COCKER spaniel puppies, KC reg, black, 1 boy, 1 girl. £700 each. 01902 674637.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

APARTMENT TO LET close to city centre, 2 bed, 1 en suit, private parking. 07831 847211.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

NETHERTON AREA 2-bed house, DHSS welcome, 30 plus, no pets, deposit required. 07780 704435.

ONE BEDROOMED GROUND FLOOR COTTAGE APARTMENT
Fully furnished with jacuzzi bath, nice courtyard garden, close to the centre of Bewdley, available from August 1.
01299 404760.

mobile homes

FOR SALE 2 BED PARK HOME
At Homeland Park, Ball Lane, Coven Heath, Nr. Wolverhampton, WV10 7EZ.
Price reduced for a quick sale.
Details 07983 431475.

overseas property

HOUSE AND GITE NORMANDY, FRANCE
House has two bedrooms and a ensuite and a large living room with open plan dining and kitchen area **Gite** has open plan living room / kitchen and upstairs is a bedroom.
£130,000.
0033 233691776.
For more info e-mail steve -carol1@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

EVERY TIME!
WE PAY 100% of purchase price

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We buy any house
- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
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- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND
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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
- ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
- COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
- FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
- FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
- LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
01384 930 978 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

property exchanges

COUNCIL EXCHANGE from 2 bed end terrace house, excellent decoration, for 1 bed Bungalow, Bilston area. 01902 250302.

7 Jobs

office & secretarial

LEGAL CASHIER

Part time hours.
Salary negotiable

Apply with CV to
Julie Ashley
Gardner Champion Solicitors
Rugeley

julie@ gardnerchampion.co.uk

courses

TELFORD: 3-4 SEPTEMBER
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 17-18 SEPTEMBER
Accredited ocn Geopace Training

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - leading UK qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
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Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD - Research - Overseas

full time - general

Environmental Technician
A+A
Droitwich with UK-wide Travel | Salary negotiable

We are seeking to appoint an Environmental Technician.
The role entails deployment of pumping systems in boreholes, to collect groundwater samples and recover spilled oils.

Key elements/requirements are as follows:
- Operation and maintenance of air driven pumping systems
- Attention to detail
- A strong team work ethic
- A positive safety culture
- Full, clean UK driving licence
- Working outside in all weathers
- Driving 4WD vehicles
- Full training given.

Email your CV to Nathan.male@adlerandallan.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW M-SPORT 320D
2006, metallic black, suede/ cloth interior, coded bumpers/ grill, 18ins alloys, MoT October, tinted windows, 129k, fantastic condition, fsh.
£3,995 ono.
Telephone 07871 876646.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL 01902 317878

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6, diesel, 2006, 42,800 miles, fsh, black, full MoT, very good condition. £1,799 07879 403302.

CRYSLER GRANDE VOYAGER
03 reg, full electrics, full leather interior, 66,000 miles, 12 months MoT, very good condition.
£1,750 ono.
01902 828099.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC
(09) 2009, 3dr, SH, 26,000 miles, metallic red, colour coded interior, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, any trial, very clean and genuine car.
£5,250.
Contact David 07503 000940.

MERCEDES BENZ CONVERTIBLE CLK 200 KOMPRESSOR ELEGANCE
Auto, 41k, 07 reg, very smart, dark blue with beige leather, one previous lady owner, service history, bargain
£7,750.Shifnal 07900 038887.

NISSAN XTRAIL 2.2 SVE, 53 reg, diesel, top of the range, MoT February 2017, £1,900.
Telephone 07415 189836.

PEUGEOT 207cc CONVERTIBLE
2008, lovely condition, FSH, MoT August 12, 2017, 47k, electric windows, electric roof, rear park assist, CD, A/C, climate control, auto lights.
£3,350. o.n.o.
Telephone 07958 400177.

PEUGEOT 407 SW 56 reg, Red, 78,000 miles, FSH, MoT Dec, £1,000 ono.
07951 664184.

SEAT IBIZA 1.2 Reference Sport, 2007, one owner from new, 20k, very good condition, just serviced, MoT, £2,599 ono. 07785 384166.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4 Diesel, 58k, 2010, Good condition. 0 Road Tax. 8 mths Mot. 1 lady driver from new. 60-70 mpg. Red. £4,250. 01902 895145.

SUZUKI ALTO, 09 Reg., very good condition, 19,700 miles, MoT end of May 2017, service record available, £2,700. 01902 676152.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE
2007, manual, 5dr hatchback petrol. 12 months MoT, 41,600 miles only, genuine reason for sale.
£2,250.
07837 130333.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Convertible 1.8 Exclusive. 2005. In grey with black half leather seats. 86k, FSH, 2 keys. £1,795. 07759 237779.

VOLVO C70 LUX 2010, Auto diesel, 26,500 miles, Red, slide top convertible, cream leather interior, FSH, £11,500. 01384 211945.

VW FOX 64,000, 56 reg, 12 months MoT, Immaculate condition, one owner. £1,595.
07745 922328.

VW GOLF
1.4, 2001 in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cam belt, water pump, breaks, coilovers, Audi TT wheels, excellent condition.
£1,650 ovno.
01902 306544 /07814 336980.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO Active.1.2, 54 reg, MoT Dec, 60,500k, good runner, ideal first car. New car forces sale. £1,050 ono. 07711 112491.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL LX 5dr hatchback, 2004, long MoT, good condition, very reliable, any trial. £895 ono. 01902 618380.

HONDA CIVIC 1.4 MAX, 02 reg, MoT April 2017, 107,446 miles, £500 ono.
Telephone 01902 458858.

HYUNDAI ACCENT CDX, 2002, 108,000 miles, silver, 6 months MoT, good runner, £395 ono.
07813 162522.

NISSAN ALMERA 53 plate, 1500cc, good condition, MoT, very good runner, no faults £580 ono. 07827 059501 / 01902 659043.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, S reg, 88,000 miles, 1 owner last 12 years, 10 months MoT. £375 ono.
Telephone 01902 738257.

PEUGEOT 206 Silver (51 reg), 58,800 miles. Good condition. Full MoT. £700 ono. 07889 953943

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE 2002, low mileage, 10 months MoT £500 ono.
01902 689227.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6
2003, 117,000 miles, grey, abs, airbag, MoT until Sept 2016, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo. Recent timing belt and water pump.
£300 ono.
07967 311845.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA, 2004, 107,700 miles, blue, MoT March 2017, £600 ono. 07943 816045.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 2001, green, 98k miles, PAS, CD, CL, long MoT, clean car, drvies great, £595 o.n.o. 07956 882868.

VAUXHALL VECTRA EXCLUSIV, 2006, 51k, grey, abs, fsh, e/m, 6 months MoT, central locking, one owner. £1,150 ono. 0121 520 4287.

VW FOX 2009, immaculate inside and out, very economical, low mileage, £1,995. 01384 565140 or 07761 091577.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN , MoT till Nov. Good runner. Economical. £200. o.n.o. 07831 806052.

MITSUBISHI L200 TROJAN double cab, lfor Williams top, 2007, 106,000 miles, £4,950.
Telephone 07788 841443.

VAUXHALL COMBO van, 1700 diesel, 06 reg, 12 months MoT, 56,000 miles, £2,200.
07828 111032.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA CX400 TRIKE 1993, in very good condition. £2,250 Genuine callers only.
07925 251177.

ROYAL ENFIELD TWIN 1959 700cc. Super Meteor. Rebuilt to high standard. Reliable. Shrewsbury area. £4,250 ono 01938 850514.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397.
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vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
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For Example:
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Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@ expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

EILEEN HUNTER
Maiden name: O'Neill
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 94 WITTON STREET, STOURBRIDGE DY8 3YE, who died on 19/12/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 30/09/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Derek Raymond Hunter, The London Gazette (2017), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
BILLY BUNS LANE (WOMBOURNE), A463 WODEHOUSE LANE (GOSPEL END), A449 STOURBRIDGE ROAD (LLOYD HILL) (SOUTHBOUND)
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 28th July 2016, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in the following lengths of roads:

Billy Buns Lane, Wombourne - Between its junctions with A449 Stourbridge Road and School Road. Taking place 1st August - 5th August, and 8th August - 11th August, between the hours of 19.00 and 06.00.

A463 Wodehouse Lane, Gospel End - Between its junctions with A449 Stourbridge Road and Penn Road. Taking place 1st August - 5th August, and 8th August - 11th August, between the hours of 19.00 and 06.00.

A449 Stourbridge Road, Lloyd Hill between its junctions with A449 Springfield Roundabout and Beggers Bush Lane, in a southbound direction only, northbound traffic is unaffected. Taking place 1st August – 5th August, between the hours of 19.00 and 06.00.

unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. For A463 Wodehouse Lane, access to frontages will be available via Gospel End Road. For A449 Stourbridge Road, access to frontages will be available via A449 Springfield Roundabout. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative routes for traffic will be signed on site.

The Order will come into operation on 1st August 2016, and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 11th August 2016.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the carriageway resurfacing works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: 30884/30890/30885; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000, http://roadworks.org

Date: 29th July 2016

10 Personals

personal

BRITISH BORN INDIAN MALE
Would like to meet lady aged 30-50 years for nights in and out, travelling, pubs/wine bars, sleep overs, general company.
Box Number P20456 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MUST BE SOMEONE FOR ME ?
Gornal guy, 59 years old, own home and car, young at heart, GSOH, enjoys cosy nights, country walks, old pubs, meals in / out, holidays, visiting interesting places, most music. Looking for that someone special.
Would like a Friendship / relationship / romance with a younger female, attractive, slimish, honest, kind, loving and see where it leads.
Box Number P20458, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RETIRED GENT
With 4 x 4 seeks mature lady to help with navigation around Scotland.
Box Number P20448 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1

WOMAN OF 43
Wishes to seek male, aged between 35 and 50 for companionship, friendship and possible relationship.
All single, separated or divorcee's welcome.
Please send a photograph and it will be returned.
I have long blonde hair, blue eyes and am 5ft 6" in height.
Box Number P20449, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

ALL STAR WANDERERS UNDER 13'S
Currently seeking players to strengthen squad.
We are looking for players in all positions.
Jason Bolton 07960 297490
Simon Stanton 07881 100791

DUDLEY SPORTS F.C. CHARTER STANDARD CLUB
Under 15 Girls looking for players to strengthen squad.
Play in the Central Warwick League on a Saturday morning.
If you are interested
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general

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As a coach at West Bromwich Albion with Gary Strodder in 1990

Allardyce as a Bolton Wanderers player in 1980

Allardyce, back centre, in the school team for Sycamore Green, Dudley

Sam Allardyce arrives for a friendly while manager of Sunderland

Black Country's Sam is now the England man

HE'S the Black Country boy who grew up supporting Wolves and went on to enjoy a coaching role at Albion.

Now Dudley-born Sam Allardyce has landed his dream job as England manager.

It's a job he has craved ever since being overlooked in 2006 when the FA instead opted for Steve McClaren.

The 61-year-old was appointed by a three-man FA panel of chief executive Martin Glenn, vice-chairman David Gill and technical director Dan Ashworth last week. He replaces Roy Hodgson, himself a former Albion boss, who resigned after England's 2-1 Euro 2016 defeat to Iceland.

Former FA chairman Greg Dyke said: "Clearly the three-man group are convinced he's the right man and I go along with that.

"We appointed a three-man committee to go out and look at all the candidates, come back with a recommendation who they thought was the best man. They've taken that decision and obviously we'll agree with them."

Educated

Allardyce is known to be hugely proud of his West Midlands roots – and often comes back to visit family. But the no-nonsense defender felt he had to move away in order to pursue a career in professional football.

Big Sam grew up on Wren's Nest estate and was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Wren's Nest School.

But he left the area aged just 15 when he was approached by Bolton.

He played a handful of games for Dudley Town's youth team during the 1969/70 season. His brother, Bobby, remains the club's oldest-ever player.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin said: "It's fantastic to see someone from our own town, who played for our club, going all the way to being England manager."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"It's fantastic to see someone from our own town, who played for our club, going all the way to being England manager."

Allardyce's playing career took him to Bolton, Huddersfield, Sunderland, Coventry, Millwall and Preston. But no matter what part of the country he was in, he always expressed his pride at being from Dudley.

And, despite his boyhood leaning towards Wolves, it was Albion who gave Allardyce his first taste of coaching when he was appointed to Brian Talbot's coaching staff at The Hawthorns in 1989.

Although his stay back in the West Midlands ended when he and Talbot were sacked, he still believes his first backroom job was a valuable part of his managerial education.

"It was a difficult time for the club, for Brian Talbot and certainly for me," said Allardyce. "I was reserves manager but then in the second year Brian wanted me to work with him and the first team.

"But it was always going to be difficult because he was under pressure from the start and it only lasted until January.

"I enjoyed working with the players in the reserves and we won the Birmingham League. It was a good experience."

The next step saw him head to Limerick where he guided the League of Ireland team to promotion, before managing Blackpool, who sacked him when he failed to guide them to Division One.

In January, 1997, he became manager of Division Two basement club Notts County. And although he couldn't save them from relegation, they won promotion at the first attempt by finishing top of Division Three the next year – winning the title by 19 points and becoming the first post-war side to win promotion by mid-March.

In 1999 he returned to Bolton, for whom he had played 198 times, and in 2001 they beat Preston 3-0 in the play-off final to reach the Premiership. He then stabilised them in the top flight to help form his reputation as a survival specialist.

But his time at the Reebok Stadium wasn't just about keeping Bolton in the league. The Trotters, with the likes of Youri Djorkaeff and Jay-Jay Okocha, qualified for the UEFA Cup and reached the Round of 32 in the 2005/06 campaign.

Spells

Allardyce was offered the Manchester City job shortly after, but the offer was withdrawn after Thaksin Shinawatra's purchase of the club was accepted.

Since then he has had spells in charge of Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham. And last season he defied the odds to keep Sunderland in the Premier League.

Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who led England to three successive major tournament quarter-finals, has backed Allardyce to succeed. He said: "If you take a team from the lower part of the table you have to adapt to what you want to do.

"Many times Sam has had a team struggling for survival and he has done the job."

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Convincing Cradley in crushing win

CRADLEY climbed back up to second in the National League table with a crushing 58-32 win over Buxton at Monmore Green.

It was a convincing display from Will Pottinger's side to comfortably dispose of the visitors in emphatic style – just a few weeks after they needed a last-heat decider to overcome the same opponents in the Knockout Cup.

Terrific top two Ashley Morris and Max Clegg both went unbeaten by an opposing rider for the second straight home meeting as the Heathens delivered 13 race winners.

Morris set the tone with a comprehensive win in heat one, and his only real challenge came as he battled past former Cradley man Ellis Perks in the early stages of heat 10.

Clegg was also in imperious form, clocking the fastest time of the night in heat seven as he prevailed over the battling Perks.

Luke Chessell grew in confidence as the night progressed after emerging from his opening ride with a paid win behind team-mate Ben Basford having survived a big moment on the third lap.

He narrowly missed out on a paid maximum as Perks gated in heat 12 and held on to deliver the visitors their first race win. Basford, making his return from injury, also made a big impact at reserve, winning his opening two rides to ensure the Heathens were always in the driving seat.

Richard Andrews produced arguably the ride of the night as he blasted around Shelby Rutherford to hit the front on the opening lap of heat eight.

Cradley: Ashley Morris 15, Max Clegg 13+2, Luke Chessell 10+1, Richard Andrews 8+1, Ben Basford 8+1, Bradley Andrews 2+1, Layne Cupitt 2, James Purchase R/R.

Buxton: Ellis Perks 8, Shelby Rutherford 7+2, Lee Dicken 6, Ryan Blacklock 5+1, Lee Geary 4, William O'Keefe 2+1, Kean Dicken 0, David Speight R/R.

Anyone's game as competition enters final two rounds

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club fielded a commendable 14 players for the annual post-season friendly Tony Evers match against Halesowen.

The addition of Paul Taylor, a loanee from Halesowen, enabled a 15-board match to be played.

On paper it looked like Stourbridge should win as they outgraded their opponents on the lower boards but in the end they won handsomely with Halesowen only winning two games as opposed to Stourbridge's 10. The final result was Halesowen 3½ - Stourbridge 11½.

After three rounds of Stourbridge's summer tournament, it's very tight at the top with all players having lost some points. What the final outcome will be is very unclear as seven players share the lead on two points out of a possible three with two more rounds to go.

Martin Berridge, Colin Woodall, Chris Cox, John Foxall and Eric Horwill all won their third round games.

Anyone interested in joining, or playing in the summer tournament should call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk

Champion's help a real catch for girls

Rachael Hayhoe-Flint passes on some tips

FORMER England cricket captain Baroness Rachael Heyhoe-Flint has passed on her top tips to a champion girl's side from Dudley.

Baroness Heyhoe-Flint, who was born and raised in Wolverhampton, captained the national team from 1966-78, becoming one of the most high-profile personalities in women's cricket.

The Year 6 team from Milking Bank Primary School will be hoping to emulate her success, having already proved they have a bright future with strong performances in a series of tournaments.

Baroness Heyhoe-Flint agreed to meet with the girls and their coach, Matthew Farmer, to pass on a few words of wisdom.

Cricket

She said: "Meeting the girls was inspiring. They are all aged 11 or younger and turned up proudly wearing their medals around their necks.

"The group is now off to three different senior schools and I hope those schools will help in furthering their careers."

The Year 6 team played in five tournaments this year, winning four, including at the Black Country School Games. Baroness Heyhoe-Flint's crowning glory was leading England to victory in the 1973 World Cup.

WOLVES SWOOP ON FAB FOUR

KEWFORD EAGLES are celebrating after seeing four young footballers fly the nest.

Ellie Grosvenor, Olivia Malpass, Abbey Beresford and Alice Eva have all been signed up by Wolves as part of the FA England Talent Pathway development programme.

The fab four, all members of Kewford's under-10 girls team last season, have made stunning progress, having only taken up the sport a year ago.

The girls started playing at Kewford last summer at the club's Saturday morning sessions and progressed to play for the team in the Mercian Junior Fortis League.

The news is a big boost to Kewford who continue to blaze a trail on the junior football scene, and a further shot in the arm for their growing girls' section.

"The club is very proud of the girls," said girls secretary Matt Adamson. "To have so many selected, almost half of one team, is fantastic.

Opportunity

"It's a big achievement for them and for the coach of that team, Rhys Edwards. It was Rhys' first year coaching and he has done a lot to develop the girls. He is a big Wolves fan himself so he is really delighted.

"For a club like us at grassroots level that's the aim, to give girls the opportunity to reach the highest standard they possibly can. It's been a real team effort with all of the girls pulling together to have a great first season with coaches from all age groups at Kewford chipping in to get the girls the best start we could give them."

Kewford is one of the biggest grassroots clubs in the Midlands with their own £1.2m private football facility – Eagle Park – in Wall Heath.

More than 500 youngsters are on the Eagles' books, playing in 40-plus sides. And the club is keen to see more girls pull on a pair of boots as they seek to build on the success in the female ranks.

This saw title wins for the under-12s and 14s in the Mercian League and for the senior side in the Birmingham County Women's League. The under-14s also picked up the Merit Shield and a Fair Play award.

Signed up – Ellie Grosvenor, Olivia Malpass, Abbey Beresford and Alice Eva

Players mix in for jubilee tournament

WHILST Kyle Edmund was sealing victory for Great Britain in the Davis Cup, Wollaston Tennis Club members were competing hard, in scorching temperatures in the jubilee tournament.

The mixed tournament at the Prestwood Drive club, took the form of an American style event, with qualifying rounds run on a round robin basis, ensuring that each pair played a short set against all other pairings. Each match was the best of eight games, with each pair playing six matches.

Players competed over a three-hour period for a place in the one set final, which saw Alan Hughes and Jane Armstrong defeat Shaun Ryder and Chris Armstrong 7-5, in a deciding tie break. Chairman John Cutler said: "This is another busy year for the club. We have mens, ladies and mixed teams playing matches in the local leagues, and we have run a number of tournaments within the club. In addition, our club championships qualifying rounds have started."

Teams show thunder for 24-hour relay

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club took part in a relay with a difference – the 24 hour Thunder Run, at Catton Park on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border. The race started at noon on Saturday with the aim to complete as many laps of the undulating 10 kilometre off road course in 24-hours.

The race attracted competitors in solo, pairs and teams of five but it was the mixed eight runner teams category that interested the blue hoops with the club managing to field four teams, a total of 31 athletes pulling on the vest.

The A team hammered out lap after lap at an average of a fraction over 45 minutes for each circuit completing a total of 32 laps, a distance of nearly 200 miles, to take ninth place. The B team covered almost 175 miles and 28 laps to come 28th, while the Cs completed 24 laps, almost 150 miles to finish in 107th place with only seven runners and the D team covered just over 130 miles between them to finish 192nd of the 239 teams competing in the event.

The blue hoops rubbed shoulders with the green and white hoops of Tipton Harriers as a sizeable group made the short trip across the Black Country for the Andy Holden 5, a race held to commemorate the former Tipton Harrier who represented his country in the 1970 Commonwealth Games and the 1972 Munich Olympics.

This was a midweek mad blast along the local canal towpaths that Holden regularly trod. Stuart Perkins was first back for DK in 12th place in 30.02.

A couple of DK runners travelled to Arley Hall in Cheshire for the Cheshire Half Marathon, and both recording the same gun times – Dave Ede just edging Paul Baker on chip timing. At the Trentham 10k, Alison and Keith Whitehouse finished in the same time of 59.42.

Shrews are tamed in Glassboys clash

STOURBRIDGE bagged an impressive pre-season success against League One Shrewsbury Town at the War Memorial Stadium.

A goal in each half, courtesy of Joe Hull and Chris Lait, eased the Glassboys to a 2-0 victory against a Town side containing a number of first teamers.

It took just under 10 minutes for the hosts to chalk up the lead they so deserved. A long throw from Tom Tonks was met by defender Hull, who rose to power his header beyond Callum Burton.

The second arrived when Lait stole in to thump a sweet, low half-volley.

★★★

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